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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7174

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1988

JAMADI AL-THANI 29, 1408 AH

American battleship leaves Gulf

WASHINGTON, Feb 16, (Agencies): The battleship Iowa and two escort warships are steaming home from the Gulf and another ship is scheduled to leave soon in the first real reduction of the US fleet in the war zone between Iraq and Iran, the Defence Department announced today.

The movement of the Iowa and its escorts over the weekend cuts the US naval force in and around the Gulf to 25 vessels, Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage told reporters.

He said the helicopter carrier Okinawa will leave for home by the end of this month with its complement of mine-hunting helicopters.

Armitage also told reporters today that the Defence Department will send a delegation to Baghdad this week to discuss further safety measures to protect US shipping from accidental attack by Iraqi warplanes.

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ان کاروں خاتم میں
لے ایں اور جانی کاروں
کر سکیں یا سرعتات
سونت یونہن سے پاکستان کا
طبلہ
سری نیکشن فلمز تارکھن
تاں باشی خوشی کرنی
طرافی ور عالم کے دفتر
کے سامنے کاریں رہاں
پیڈیشن میں سیاری رہاں
کی قدری
بیمارت میں علاقوں ترقیں

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around 10°C with moderate humidity and with some freshens at times. State of sea: moderate to fresh. High water: 10.00 am, 12.00 pm. Low water: 5.00 am, 5.30 pm. Sunrise: 6.26 am. Sunset: 5.39 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 19°C 64°F. Ahmadi: 18°C 64°F. Faikha: 18°C 64°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 22°C 72°F. Ahmadi: 19°C 66°F. Faikha: 19°C 66°F. Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 10°C 50°F. Ahmadi: 12°C 54°F. Faikha: 12°C 54°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 81 per cent. Ahmadi: 78 per cent. Faikha: 79 per cent. Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 85 per cent. Ahmadi: 80 per cent. Faikha: 80 per cent.

Arafat vows voyage will take place

PLO to retaliate for ship explosion

YASSER Arafat said yesterday the PLO might retaliate against Israel for Monday's bomb attack on a PLO-chartered ship in Cyprus.

The PLO leader blamed Israeli agents for the blast which disabled the car ferry Sol Phryne in the Cypriot port of Limassol. The PLO had hired the boat to take 106 deported Palestinians on a symbolic voyage back to Israel.

Arafat also accused the Israeli secret service Mossad of killing three senior PLO officials in a car bomb attack in Limassol on Sunday.

"If Mossad thinks it can at any moment assassinate some of our heroes ... they should not think our hand is short. They know more than others that we can get them in any place or at any time," he told a news conference.

Pledged

Arafat appeared to repudiate the PLO's 1986 Cairo agreement in which it pledged to halt military operations against Israeli targets outside Israel and the occupied territories.

"Patience has its limits" he said. "The Cairo announcement is not a commitment from one side only. The Israeli must understand that the sword of terrorism has two edges."

Arafat said he had contacted the Egyptian authorities, as witnesses to the Cairo agreement, to tell them of his stand.

Voyage

Arafat vowed the voyage would take place despite the setbacks. "There are continuous attempts to find an alternative to this ship which has been bombed and burned," he said.

"The problem is one of time, especially since a number of guests and friends have been with us in Athens waiting to sail. They have other commitments."

The PLO originally planned to start the voyage from Greece where several hundred journalists and observers assembled more than a week ago in hopes of accompanying the ship.

Arafat said the PLO had chartered ships from three maritime companies in the past several weeks but each one had backed out at the last minute under what he called Israeli and American



HH the Amir yesterday received PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat.

pressure.

Arafat said the voyage was not a public relations operation but a demonstration of the legitimate right of Palestinians to return to their homeland.

"Israel and its allies are trying to strike from the political dictionary our inalienable right to return," he said.

Escalate

He did not elaborate on how far the PLO might retaliate for the Sol Phryne blast. But he said it had already decided to escalate military operations outside the occupied territories, scene of violent anti-Israeli protests for the past nine weeks.

The uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were the main topic in talks yesterday between Arafat and HH the Amir of Kuwait, one of the PLO's strongest backers.

Arafat said only two Arab governments—Kuwait and Iraq—had supported the Palestinian demonstrations with contributions.

"Shultz is trying to sell rotten goods on the market as if they were new. He is bringing something even less than Camp David," Arafat said.

An official at the PLO office in Nicosia said: "There are alternatives. We are not desperate," when asked what the PLO planned to do after the explosion.

"This battle with the Israeli enemy cannot stop except through victory and raising of

the morale of the people."

"I don't think anybody has got anything against the bank," said police Lieutenant Felix Arevalo.

An Israeli Embassy spokesman

pled the Sol Phryne.

The official, who asked not to be named, would not say whether the PLO has found another boat.

Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO's chief spokesman in Athens who has been overseeing preparations for the voyage, had said:

"We are continuing our plans and we will sail, in spite of Israeli terrorists who are using bombs against ideas, noble ideas."

"But the step captain, Cleanthis Vlahopoulos, said it would take "several months" to make the Sol Phryne seaworthy again.

Conflict

New American proposals to end the Middle East conflict call for limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories and an international meeting leading to direct Arab-Israeli talks.

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INTERNATIONAL

Chinese welcome Year of the Dragon

BEIJING, Feb 16. (Agencies) Tens of millions of peasant families slaughtered their fattest pigs to welcome returning relatives and to feast the arrival this week of the Year of the Dragon, the most auspicious sign in the Chinese zodiac.

According to China's 5,000-year-old calendar, the Year of the Dragon begins on Feb 18 and heralds 12 months of prosperity, action, daring and tumult after the calm and moderation of the Year of the Rabbit.

At midnight on New Year's eve, the sky over China and Chinese communities throughout Asia will explode in a cacophony of firecrackers — traditionally intended to frighten off any lingering ghosts which might cast an evil eye over the propitious moment.

Revellers seem unfazed by the hundreds of deaths and injuries sparked each year by the burst of fireworks which erupts for the five days and nights of the festival. The Year of the Dragon — the only mythical and the most magnificent of all 12 signs in China's animal zodiac — will likely be no exception, despite attempts by Beijing officials to limit sales of the deadly playthings.

Hong Kong, usually one of the busiest, noisiest places in the world, started grinding to a virtual halt today as most of its 5.6 million residents prepared for a three-day orgy of feasting and family reunions to mark the lunar New Year.

By tomorrow morning most of the territory, including the central business district on Hong Kong island, will be deserted on the first day of celebrations marking the Year of the Dragon.

"You see, this place will be a ghost town in 24 hours," said Winston Ng, assistant manager at a large hotel overlooking Hong Kong's harbour.

"Everybody goes home — you won't get a taxi," he added.

Extra staff have been drafted to immigration desks at Kai Tak airport and the rail crossing point into China at Lo Wu.

Meanwhile, the shabby, drizzled-damp streets of Hanoi range to the rip-rap of firecrackers today as Vietnamese saw out the old lunar year and drew breath for another year of stoic struggle.

The age-old traditions on the eve of Tet, the New Year, went ahead.

Women steamed the briquet-shaped, and brick-heavy, bang chung rice cakes, and put up pink-flowering peace trees and miniature orange bushes to herald spring and the family gathered round the home.

Bush, Dole in neck-and-neck battle

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire, Feb 16. (Reuters) Vice-President George Bush was locked in a neck-and-neck battle with Senator Robert Dole today as New Hampshire voted in the first of a string of US presidential primary elections.

Defeat in the New England state could deal a crippling blow to the Vice-President's hopes for the Republican Party's presidential nomination.

Bush has seen his 20-point lead of two weeks ago in the north-eastern state dwindle to nothing. Late polls put the two men on virtually even terms and a victory

Army seeks tougher anti-rebel laws

Aquino rules out martial law

MANILA, Feb 16. (Reuters) Philippine President Corazon Aquino said today suggestions she would declare martial law were ridiculous, but her Army asked congress for tougher laws to help it fight a communist insurgency.

Meanwhile, the commander of a major US airbase near Manila said American were taking "very seriously" rebel threats to kill American servicemen and that base officials had taken security measures to prevent attacks on personnel.

Aquino repudiated emergency rule as weapon against the guerrillas during a meeting at the presidential palace with senate defence committee chief Ernesto Macea.

"She said it's ridiculous and out of the question," Macea told reporters. "The sooner she squelches the idea the better because ... it was never seriously in her mind."

At the House of Representatives, armed forces deputy chief Brigadier-General Honestio Isleta told a congressional panel the military needed "stiffer laws" to defeat the 19-year-old communist New People's Army.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos told reporters the

military saw no need for martial law at present but that it wanted tougher legislation to check the rebellion, including imposing the death penalty on guerrillas.

Options

Asked whether, if the rebellion worsened, he would favour suspension of the habeas corpus rights of suspects to challenge the legality of their arrests, he said: "All of these things are under study in the sense that we must study the various options available in the constitution."

The flurry of official denials that the government was considering martial law or some form of emergency occurred hours after the lower house unanimously passed a resolution strongly opposing an emergency declaration in the Philippines.

Former President Ferdinand Marcos wielded martial law powers for 14 years but failed to quell an insurgency that grew from a few hundreds to 16,000 by the time he was overthrown in 1986. The military estimates present NPA strength at 25,000.

The military reported yesterday that 29 people had been killed in the latest violence across the country, including two policemen gunned down in Maimbung Monday, leaving

Killings

In southern Sulu, military authorities reported 19 people were killed and 34 others wounded in four incidents Sunday and Monday as the remote archipelago became the last of 73 provinces to choose its provincial and municipal leaders since elections began Jan 18.

Military reports said guerrillas of the Muslim Moro National Liberation Front battled a breakaway faction called the "lost command" in the town of Maimbung Monday, leaving

nine people dead and four wounded.

The two groups were supporting rival mayoral candidates. An earlier encounter Sunday left three people dead, the reports said.

In the town of Kalingalan, five people were killed and 30 others wounded when a grenade exploded in the house of a mayoral candidate Monday, authorities said.

Two other people were killed in a gunfight in a polling centre in Kadami town Monday, police said.

More than 4,000 troops backed by ships, tanks and helicopters were placed on alert in the mainly Muslim province 600 miles (950 km) south of Manila, dominated by rival political warlords and separatist rebels.

The killings in Sulu brought to 157 the election-related death toll in the country since campaigning began in November. The elections completed the restoration of democratic institutions dismantled by former ruler Marcos.

Col. Anthony Elias said five battalions of Marines and Army troops had joined constabulary and special forces soldiers to prevent violence during voting in the province.



Filipino policemen drag an old woman away from a squatters' colony in Quezon city after residents tried to prevent police from demolishing their shanties. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palestinians clash with Nasserites

BEIRUT, Feb 16. (UPI) Palestinian commandos and Muslim Sunnis clashed for two hours firing machine guns last night near refugee camps east of the southern port city of Sidon, killing one person and wounding four, police said.

They said the shooting erupted near Al Helweh and Miyeh Miyeh refugee camps, 37 km south of Beirut, following an argument between Palestinian commandos and militiamen of the Nasserite Popular Liberation Army of Sidon's Sunni leader Mustafa Saad.

One Sunni militiaman was killed and four people, including two Palestinian commandos and two militiamen, were wounded in the clashes which were contained following contacts between leaders of the two groups.

Saad and Palestinian officials called it an isolated incident, but political sources said it reflected growing tension between the two allied groups touched off by the abduction 11 days ago of two Scandanavian UN relief workers.

Political sources said Goulding's discussions with Lebanese officials will also focus on efforts to free Jorgenson and Steing.

Unraa, which employs more than 2,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, withdrew two of its international staff after the kidnapping.

Meanwhile, President Amin Gemayel today returned home from visits to Sudan and North Yemen.

Woman is victim of mistaken identity

ZEPHYRHILLS, Florida, Feb 16. (AP) A man apparently bent on killing his former wife's boyfriend mistakenly went to the home of another man with the same last name, killing one woman and wounding two other people, police say.

"It was a one in a million case of mistaken identity," said Pasco county sheriff Jim Gillum in announcing the arrest Monday of John Edward Boggs, 55, of Vermilion, Ohio, about 1,600 kilometres north of Zephyrhills.

Boggs is accused of breaking into a darkened mobile home here last Thursday night totting a pistol and a shotgun. He fatally shot Nigel Macras, 70, and wounded her friend Harold Rush, 69, and her daughter Betsie Ritchie, 50, said the sheriff's spokesman.

Boggs had recently divorced his wife, Gerry, who had moved from Ohio to Zephyrhills, investigators said. She filed a complaint late last year with police saying her former husband had threatened to kill her and her boyfriend.

That boyfriend's name is Gerald Rush, no relation to victim Harold Rush. Gerald Rush and Mrs Boggs live in a mobile home, but on a different street from the one where the shootings occurred, authorities said.

Neighbours of the shooting victims say that on the day of the murder, Boggs was going around knocking on doors looking for a Mr Rush.

New Hampshire, with a population of just over a million, has a tradition of dealing unpleasant surprises to prospective presidential candidates.

This year, Bush could fall victim to his second political mishap in the state, political pundits say.

In 1980, he came into New Hampshire on the crest of a victory in the lowe caucuses, the first test in presidential campaigns, to be beaten by Ronald Reagan.

This time he managed only a dismal third-place showing in lowe behind Dole and former faith-healer Pat Robertson and political experts say his campaign has since been plagued by one tactical error after the other.

Aides to the Vice President say he could still win New Hampshire but only by a slender margin, perhaps one per centage point.

The two men have paid little

Attention

Michael Dukakis, Governor of neighbouring Massachusetts, is heavily favoured, with the real interest focusing on the race for second between Illinois Senator Paul Simon and Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt.

The two men have paid little

Moscow reneges on Afghan interim regime: Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16. (UPI) Pakistan accused the Soviet Union today of backtracking on the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan and said Moscow's position threatened to undermine negotiations on withdrawal settem.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan interpreted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's pronouncements on a possible withdrawal, without linking it to the formation of an interim government in Kabul, as a reversal of earlier commitments to such a process.

He said Moscow's position could jeopardize efforts by UN mediator Diego Cordovez to reach agreement on a withdrawal

He said Moscow's position

and negotiations on a withdrawal

He told the nation in a televised statement that yielding to what he termed as a campaign of hate and slander would damage Austrian democracy.

He renewed his refusal to step down as the country's elected President, a week after a group of international military historians found that he eased the path for Nazi atrocities as an intelligence officer in the German Army occupying the Balkans in World War Two.

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Malaysia, won independence from Britain in 1957. Around half of the country's 16 million people are Malay, one third Chinese, 10 per cent Indian and rest from other groups.

Umno's leader, traditionally

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The court case was brought by

11 Umno members closely linked to former Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who narrowly lost to Mahathir in elections for party leader at a bitter congress last April.

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KUWAIT

Amir to patronise opening of Waterfront Project

HH THE AMIR will patronise the opening of the first and second stages of the Waterfront Project on Feb 22 as part of the celebrations of Kuwait's 27th National Day, according to a local newspaper.

The two stages are six kilometres long and run parallel to the Gulf coast, starting at the Yacht Club and ending at Kuwait Towers. The project includes several tourist facilities, such as the waterfront restaurant, the yacht club, the swimming pools complex, coastal services utilities and the Green Island, at a total cost estimated at KD38 million.

The manager of the swimming pools complex, Anwar Bu Rahma, said the complex was a great tourist attraction.

Teach

The complex covers an area of 2,257 square metres and the construction was supervised by Kuwait Municipality.

It has three levels. The basement contains equipment and water pumps.

The ground level has racing pools, 308 men's and 177 women's dressing rooms, and a big cafeteria. The first floor has halls and a restaurant seating 200 people.

Teach

He said the complex has five open swimming pools of various sizes. Special facilities have been provided for handicapped people. Each pool has a capacity of 400 to 500 swimmers. He said large areas of greenery were provided for the convenience of swimmers, and some places were

planted with flowers to improve the appearance of the complex.

The administration has plans to organise several schools to teach swimming to persons of various ages, and about eight persons have been appointed for this.

There are also several life guards and clinics.

A study is being made on the possibility of providing a gymnasium for youths and another for children.

Bu Rahma said that the administration had invited a number of students of private Arab and foreign schools to take part in the opening ceremonies to be held on Feb 24 and 25. The celebrations will include several entertainment shows and music by popular local bands.

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'Indian' numerals chart for illiterates

By Jasranka Porter



Dr Mahmoud Al Salem

check near visual acuity.

"Indian" numerals are the ones currently used in Arab countries while what is known as Arabic numerals are used worldwide.

A previous attempt in Egypt to design a chart for Arab patients was not successful because it was based on the Arabic alphabet which is considered as unsuitable for the purpose.

More women joining anti-illiteracy centre

THE director of the anti-illiteracy department, Abdul Aziz Al Najdi, praised the large number of women joining the women's anti-illiteracy centre.

He referred to a recent decision by the Education Minister to set up a committee to review and simplify the anti-illiteracy programmes.

He added that the primary problems faced by the centre included frequent and slackening of interest. He stressed the importance of awareness campaigns to attract women to join the centre.

He said the centre also offered educational programmes on household activities, cooking, sewing and tailoring.

Symposium on protected agriculture

A SYMPOSIUM dealing with protected agriculture in Kuwait was held by the Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society recently.

Khbdar Mohammed Al Mazedi, the head of the protected agriculture section at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources, said protected agriculture in Kuwait is in an experimental stage and is being attempted to overcome the harsh climate here. He added that such sheltered environments play an important role in establishing agricultural production around the world.

He said that most vegetables grown in Kuwait require temperatures ranging from 26 to 30 degrees centigrade during the day and from 20 to 25 centigrade at night. He advised farmers to use adequate air conditioning to overcome temperature increases.

Palestinian exhibition

THE 6th annual Palestinian exhibition was opened at the Science College in Khaldiya on Monday under the patronage of Kuwait University's Secretary-General Dr Hussein Al-Mahmoud.

Abdullah Mohammed, speaking at the exhibition entitled "Arms of Faith to Liberate Palestine," said the exhibition had come to reflect the true reality emphasising the Islamic roots of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

The Chairman of Kuwaiti Student Union, speaking to the group, identified the three types of Jihad, which included Jihad of the self, Jihad related to money and Jihad by word of mouth. He stressed that the last two formed the major understanding of Jihad in Islam.

Speaking at Al Seiyassah newspaper, Dr Awadi said that more sessions would be scheduled to discuss Kuwait's long-term planning strategy and to finalise the next stage of the work progress.

Awadi holds meeting

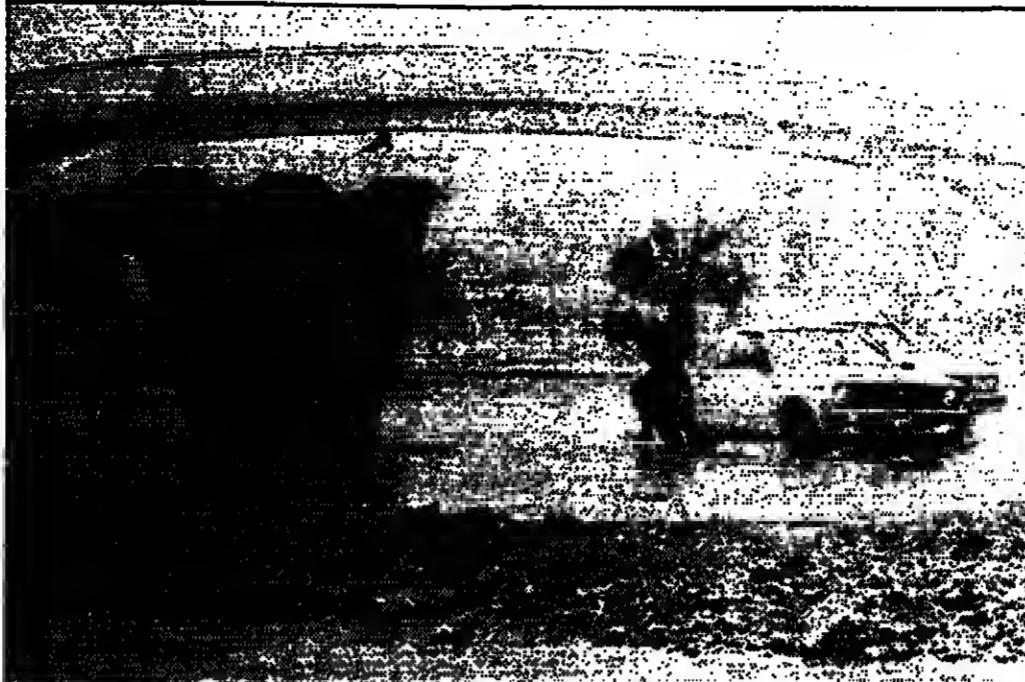
KUWAIT'S Planning Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi held a meeting at his office on Monday to discuss recommendations made regarding Kuwait's planning scheme and to begin work on the long-term plan till the year 2015.

Speaking to Al Seiyassah newspaper, Dr Awadi said that more sessions would be scheduled to discuss Kuwait's long-term planning strategy and to finalise the next stage of the work progress.

Industrial exhibition

THE Kuwait International Fair Company is preparing for the Kuwait Industries Exhibition which will open on Feb 23 under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al Khalid.

The exhibition, to be held on the occasion of the National Day celebrations, will feature 70 Kuwaiti factories and companies with displays of their products.



A heavy downpour in Kuwait yesterday sent pedestrians running for cover. The man pictured above attempts to protect himself from the rain with a paper as he dashes for the bus shelter.

Accept peace, Iran urged

HEAD of the Azhar Islamic University Sheikh Jad Al Haq yesterday called upon inactive Arab governments and Muslim quarters to rise to the level of the ongoing popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper, the leading Muslim scholar said those (Arab governments) who are "lying back motionless" should be motivated by the popular upheaval into working seriously for uniting ranks and purpose.

He emphasised the importance of extending support to the Palestinian revolt and prodded Arabs and Muslims to back those struggling to regain their usurped lands.

On the problem of drugs and alcoholism, the Azhar's head said Islam forbids everything that harms the human body and added that governments should fight the spread of "poison," so that "our youths will be protected."

AMMAN, Feb 16 (Kuna): A medal of Independence of the First Degree was offered today to Kuwaiti Ambassador here Ibrahim Jaseem Al Bahi on the occasion of the end of his mission and as an appreciation to his efforts in developing relations between Kuwait and Jordan in all fields.

In a farewell party attended by senior officials at the foreign affairs ministry and heads of the diplomatic missions to Jordan, Foreign Affairs Minister Taher Masi presented the medal to the Kuwaiti ambassador.

Jordanian medal for Kuwait envoy

Experts approve steps to fight oil pollution

EXPERTS from eight Gulf states including warring Iran and Iraq approved measures to fight offshore sources of oil pollution at a three-day meeting that ended on Monday.

A statement yesterday by the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (Ropme) said the experts had reached agreement on a draft protocol covering pollution from oil exploration and exploitation in the Gulf.

The draft has been under discussion for three years and must now be approved by health and

environment ministers of the eight states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Iraq.

The statement said the draft set forth standards that must be adopted by states of the region on the environmental consequences of exploration of the continental shelf, including drilling operations and use of chemicals in this field.

The protocol will complement an existing one that deals with onshore sources of marine pollution.

Zakat House financial aid

THE acting director of Kuwait's Zakat House Abdul Aziz Al Buzai said KD896,000 had been given to monthly support to 1,170 needy families to Kuwait and KD1.276 million had been given to 5,549 families on an irregular basis during 1987.

He added that 103 families received interest free loans totalling KD145,000 and 204 families received Student Fund benefits from the house. In addition to these donations, the Zakat House also organised the sponsorship of 13,400 orphans by 9,000 persons in Kuwait, he said, adding that about KD1.4 million was given in support of these orphans last year. He added that the children are from 22 Arab and Islamic countries.

Other contributions included KD132,000 donated to 22 local societies and KD120,000 to 19 local Zakat committees, he said. In 1987, 21,500 persons received

donations during Eid Al Fitr and 11,700 during Eid Al Adha. Zakat House also covered the expenses of 44 Muslims who performed Haj last year, he added.

Al Buzai said the Zakat House had supported 231 Islamic societies and organisations outside of Kuwait during 1987 at a cost of KD391,000 and had supervised 242 different projects outside of the country, 52 of which were completed last year. These projects, costing about KD568,000, included the construction of mosques, schools, health centres, hospitals, orphanages and digging wells, he said.

The house also established a fund to support 134 African students studying at Al Azhar University in Cairo and cooperates with Kuwait Interior Ministry in supporting families of prisoners.

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HORizonMedia

OIC ministerial council to meet in Amman

ABU DHABI, Feb 16, (Kuna): Foreign ministers from the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will meet in Amman, Jordan, March 21 to 25 for talks on issues ranging from the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf to Afghanistan and the rights of Muslims in the Philippines.

The OIC's 17th conference, however, attracts special attention this time as it is being held only 50 miles east of the holy city of Jerusalem and few miles away from the Israeli-occupied territories where a major uprising since Dec 9 has already left at least 56 Palestinians killed and hundreds others wounded by enemy gunfire and beatings.

Diplomatic sources expected the four-day gathering to pledge continued support for the Palestinian people under their legitimate representative, the PLO, until they regain their rights to self-determination, including the right to statehood.

The sources noted that almost all OIC gatherings, including the Fifth Summit Conference, which was held in Kuwait in Jan 1987, the Palestinian cause has been considered as Islam's foremost issue.

Foreign ministers, representing over one billion Muslims in 46 countries will reaffirm their previous calls for the liberation of the holy city of Jerusalem from 20 years of repressive Zionist rule, the sources said.

Report

They said the conference will discuss the financial situation on a special "Jerusalem Fund" that has been established by the OIC to help the Palestinian inhabitants to resist Israeli occupation, Judaization and settlement on Arab lands.

The latest developments of the seven-year-old war between two Muslim members — Iraq and Iran, will also be high on the conference's agenda, the sources said.

They expected the ministers to renew their call for a peaceful settlement of the conflict that has also affected other non-belligerent states.

OIC Secretary General Sherifuddin Pirzadeh of Pakistan is expected to present a report to the ministers on various issues plaguing the Muslim world.

The sources said the ministers would labour through some 78 points on their agenda that also include other important topics, such as the strategic alliance between United States and Israel, Israel's nuclear capabilities, Israel's continued aggression on Lebanon, the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Zionist enemy by certain Islamic states, cooperation with African states and other economic, cultural and political issues.

The agenda also stressed the importance of enhancing relations between the Jeddah-based OIC and various regional and international organisations.



• HH the Amir yesterday received the Ambassador of Denmark (second left) and the Ambassador to Tunisia (left) for the presentation of their credentials.



• Kuwait's Information Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah (third left), and members of the preparatory committee for National Day celebrations, (picture above) watch schoolchildren rehearsing a musical play which will be performed during the National Day celebrations (picture below).



Ministers tour experimental farm

THREE ministers yesterday visited the agricultural research experiments station located in Chabab area, at the invitation of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and chairman of the board of trustees of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (Kisr) Rashed Al Rashed.

The Ministers of Planning, Abdul Rahmaan Al Awadi; Justice and Legal Affairs, Dhari Al Othman and Minister of State for Services Affairs, Issa Al Mazeedi; got acquainted with the scientific activities at the research station.

The ministers were accompanied by director general of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij, Director General of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (Kfas) Ali Al Shamlan and Kisr's acting Director General Mohammed Al Asfour.

Kisr officials gave a brief explanation on the nature of work on the 20-square kilometres station, which aim at upgrading pastures in Kuwait's various areas.

The visitors also inspected the

area designed to plant wheat, as well as the irrigated grasslands, through which the institute targets producing feed at times when fodder is rare.

Minister Al Rashed emphasised the importance of preserving the desert environment to confront the problem of desertification.

He also called for implementing a comprehensive programme of afforestation, through a joint effort between the public authority for agricultural affairs and fisheries and Kisr to produce palm trees.

Jahra Governorate Week

EXEMPLARY Governorate Week began in Jahra on Monday, organised by the Environmental Protection Council, under the auspices of the Governor of Jahra, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Al Nasser. The opening ceremony was attended by the council's Secretary-General Ibrahim Mohammad Hadi, on behalf of the Planning Minister and chairman of the council Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi.

In his opening speech, Mohammad Hadi, stressed the significance of efforts exerted by citizens and residents of the governorate in protecting the environment.

He said that the Jahra Governorate was selected to launch Exemplary Governorate Week because of its unique recreational potential and because it had been selected as the site of the Kuwait National Park which is to be established.

UNDP to carry out agriculture scheme in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 16, (Opicas): A computerised system for upgrading agricultural planning and project analysis is to be introduced in Iraq under an accord signed here between the Iraqi Planning Ministry and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The scheme, being sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), will help in improving the efficiency of state enterprises engaged in agricultural planning and data analysis to achieve higher levels of economic management.

A source at the Planning ministry said the project, set for completion later this year, would be supplementary to its twin scheme initiated last November to help improve the analytical capabilities of agriculture personnel through computerisation.

This is one of 17 schemes being carried out by the UNDP in the Iraqi agricultural sector.

Two killed in road accidents

A WOMAN and a man died and two other men were injured in traffic accidents yesterday.

The woman died after being knocked down by a speeding car. The man died when two cars collided head-on in Dater area.

There were 21 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

One took place in Hawalli, four in the capital, four in Jahra and 12 in Ahmadi.

Cultural function

THE Bangladeshi Association will hold a cultural function to mark Shahid Day on Feb 26 at 6 pm at the Bangladeshi Embassy premises at Jabiya.

All Bangladeshis are invited.



The three ministers and officials, look at a plant.

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KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Amiri audience

HH the Amir received yesterday HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saaed Al Abdulla Al Sabah.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saaed Al Abdulla yesterday received the Minister of the Amin Divan, Sheikh Khalid Al Ahmad, the Minister of Defence, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, the Minister of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houti.

Sheikh Saaed also received the Governor of Hawalli, Sheikh Salman Al Hmoud Al Sabah; the Governor of the Central Bank, Sheikh Saleem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah; and Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Ahmad Al Mubarki.

GULF PRESS

Call for retaliatory Arab commando attacks

ARAB Gulf newspaper editorials strongly suggested yesterday forceful reprisal Arab commando attacks against the Zionist entity to check the current state of subversive and criminal Israeli onslaught on the Palestinian revolution inside and outside occupied Palestine.

"Zionist crimes will persist until we decide to launch some heroic acts in retaliation for the Israeli attempt to bury three Palestinian youths alive in the West Bank, the assassination of three Palestinian military leaders in Limassol and the bombing of the Ship of Return," said the Qatari daily Al Rayy.

The paper warned that the US Secretary of State George Shultz's trip to the Middle East region "as part of plots" to abort the Palestinian uprising.

The daily Al Shorouq, meanwhile, said the entire world has stood witness to the sordid Israeli deeds that have unveiled the real nature of the Zionist entity.

"The Israeli bombing of Ship of Return is a fresh indication of the true nature of this entity and its leaders, who, insist on putting on a graceful face, but are in fact nothing but terrorist gangs," Al Shorouq went on.

In Saudi Arabia, newspaper comments were also sharply critical of the Israeli terrorist operations. The daily Al Nadwa pointed out that the scale of Israeli crimes mirrored the worsening conduct of Israeli leaders.

The newspaper Al Youm noted that the twin Israeli attacks on Palestinian targets in Cyprus are strong evidence that the Zionist entity is accustomed to violating the national sovereignty of other states. In total disregard of international conventions.

Another paper, Okaz, asserted that the snowballing Palestinian upheaval is bound to enhance its international stature despite the wanton Israeli savagery.

The daily Al Riyadh said the current uprising has plunged the Zionist entity into a big quagmire, and it added that only American and European measures could force Tel Aviv to yield to Arab and international peace calls.

Al Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "In less than 24-hours, the Israeli enemy made two counter moves against the heroic uprising in occupied territories.

The first move was the murder of 3 Palestinian leaders and the second the mine blast on the Ship of Return."

The newspaper added "the counter Israeli move is proof that there is a crisis in the Zionist entity, a crisis in occupied territories where the uprising is escalating despite the brutality of the Zionist repression and a crisis outside where world public opinion for the first time is against the occupation forces' practices in occupied lands."

The newspaper warned "the Zionist enemy will not hesitate to commit fresh crimes in its filthy war against the Palestinian people."

The Dubai-based newspaper Al Bayan said "the two crimes committed by the Mossad on Cypriot soil is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Cyprus and international law."

"They were not unusual, coming from the Israeli terrorism factory which abuses world society with the blessing of the superpower."

The newspaper said "Israel insists on practising the law of the jungle. What was committed by the Mossad is actual terrorism and could not be considered a defensive blow because it was executed in a non-Arab state against a ship which would have sailed on a voyage of peace."

The English language daily Khaleej Times in an editorial said the sabotage of the Ship of Return underscores "the increasing nervousness as well as the growing perversity of the Zionist authorities."

Juleeb Shiyouk telecom centre

JULEEB Al Shiyouk centre for Telecommunication and postal services was inaugurated yesterday by Minister of Communications, Abdullah Al Sharhan.

Upon arrival at the centre, the minister was received by Communications Undersecretary, Abdel Aziz Al Ayoub and top officials at the ministry as well as the city's prominent figures.

The officials toured the building inspecting the main hall, the post office, overseas lines' cabinets as well as other divisions.

The minister said that the Ministry of Communications seeks to import the best equipments to facilitate the public service.

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EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

Vampire preys on male virgins

By Gail Seery

IT'S a natural human trait to show a great deal of interest in the strange and horrific (why else would anybody ever watch *Weekend?*), and also to laugh at the frightening. This urge is behind many of the spoof of horror films of recent years. It all started with the *Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein* type films, and has continued ever since.

We've made *Me! Brook's Young Frankenstein*, with Gene Wilder and the very funny Marty Feldman, and *Love at First Bite* starring George Hamilton as a Blood Bank robbing vampire, so red to America when the communist peasants on his estate throw him off, denouncing him as a capitalist bloodsucker.

Once Bitten is a comedy very much in the same vein (sorry), also set in America, or to be more precise in California, where the strange life style of the vampires isn't in any way unusual — if anything it's a little more staid than the lives of those around them.

The Countess, played impeccably by the geocally revealingly clad Laurence Hutton is in a spot of trouble. Although she knocks ten years off her age, she is around 400 years old. Nevertheless she is also very beautiful, and she would like to stay that way. She sleeps in her white coffin wearing a leotard, and gets straight on her exercise bicycle when woken in the evening by Sebastian, her butler/chefeur/procurer.

Her problem? In order to retain her looks she must drink

the blood of a male virgin three times before All Hallows Eve. You see the problem? According to the screenwriter, California is not noted for its male virgins — later in the film it is suggested she might do better to try Kansas or Nebraska.

Mark, her chosen victim is a college student, who has been dating the same girl, with little result, for four years. He and his friends are obsessed with the need to lose the trait that makes him interesting to the countess. Ooo, Russ, has the most ridiculous chat-up line I've ever heard. "I'm Russ and I'm a Sagittarius. I enjoy surfing, candlelit dinners and Tolstoy. I'm a mature person and you're a mature person..."

The story has a happy ending, but not alas, for the Countess. Mark is played by Jim Carey, and the film, directed by Sam Goldwyn Jr., is carefully thought out and pleasingly presented. There is also some nice choreography, when the Countess tries to seduce Mark at the school dance.

Mark more dated is *Dance of the Vampires* starring Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate. Here we have a Professor Abronsius looking for a vampire. "Is there a castle in the neighbourhood?" He asks the locals. They find a mass of fairly nasty vampires, including a presumably Jewish one and a "sensitive young boy" vampire, played by Alfie Bass. Although it's closer to the traditional Count Dracula type films, it's incomprehensible and rather lame most of the time. It's totally because the bad guys win for once.

Kuwait Welsh Society
St David's Day Annual Dinner will be held at Messiah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. This year's entertainment is to be provided by Doreen Lewis, a country and folk singer who has just completed recording her fourth LP album. For reservations phone 5615332; 3912384; 3940743 ext 231.

Kuwait Nomads Quiz Night
The Kuwait Nomads Rugby Club will hold "Quiz Night" on Feb 17. Teams of four, must include one lady. For details and team registration contact Jon Evans (5339867) or Tooy Sole (5330507) by Monday, Feb 15.

THEATRE
KLT
Kuwait Little Theatre (KLT), Ahmadi, will hold auditions for the summer musical at its premises at 7.30 pm on Feb 19. Backstage helpers also needed. For further details contact 3985246 after 3 pm.

Kuwait Players
"Do Not Disturb," an adult comedy written by Michael Pertwee will be performed at 8 pm on Feb 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the Universal American School. For reservations ring 5613465; 5745838; 5618244. Tickets will also be available at the door.

ARTS
Sultan Gallery
"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of a painting exhibition by American artist Kathleen Stanford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm, (except Friday) for two weeks. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza hotel. A karate expert will give a self-defense demonstration. For participating contact 5317390 or 5386297.

Music Concert '88
Adeeb, Lynley (vocals), Ammar (guitar/vocals), Asim (keyboard-synthesizer), Murtaza (bass guitar) and Raza (drums) will participate in the Music Concert '88, due to be held on Feb 19 at Al Andalus Cinema. They will present a variety of songs, originally sung by such groups as Duran Duran, Europe, Bon Jovi and others. Tickets available at Al Andalus box office. For details contact 5618482 or 3983165 (Adeeb).

Kuwait Irish Society
St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Martyr's Day
Bangladeshis will hold a meeting and print a booklet to mark the Martyrs Day. Badesik, the Bangladesh Diploma Engineers Society, will hold a discussion on "Bengali Language Day" on Friday, Feb 26, from 3 pm at the home of Shafiqullah Dewan, Abbasia.

The Bandban Natty Chakra will publish a booklet and are inviting Bangladeshis to submit articles, not more than 750 words, poems, 100 words, or short stories. They must be submitted before Feb 30.

Entangled in a legal web

By Shaun Seekins

SUSPECT is an intellectually engrossing, well crafted thriller that traces its lineage as far back as *Witness for the Prosecution*, but unlike many films of the genre, Peter Yates stands up equally well as a penetrating character study of two people caught up in social forces beyond their control.

Cher is cast as Kathleen Riley, a frustrated, overworked public defender in Washington D.C. who is chosen to represent a dead mute transient (Liam Neeson) accused of murdering a Justice Department employee. The transient, an embittered Vietnam veteran appears to be a textbook case, possessing all the anti-social characteristics necessary to commit a murder. But Riley gradually becomes convinced that there is another side to the story.

So does one of the jurors (Dennis Quaid), a glib, conniving lobbyist and con-man himself who can spot a scam when he sees one. He senses that Riley is confronting a stacked deck and is just too honest to see the facts. What begins as casual poking around results in whispered clues to the public defender and escalates into a full scale investigation which could get Riley disbarred.

Yates has to blur some of the plot details in order to make all of this work convincingly and establish the twists and turns necessary to set up the suspenseful climax.

Still, the viewer has little time to dwell on any inconsistencies as taut direction and convincing performances by his cast (particularly the ever improving Quaid) push the film along at a cracking pace. Quaid and Cher's popularity should ensure the film's success, especially here, where, unfortunately, the choice of big 1988 theatrical films looks as though it will be limited.

China Girl could be compared to a 1985 version of *East Side Story*, where the Hispanics have been replaced by Chinese and the locale switched to Canal Street, which borders Little Italy and Chinatown. The body count is graphically high, as Tooy and Tyan are finally sacrificed, band in hand, to the mindless mayhem.

Though purporting to condemn racist attitudes, the film inevitably tends to re-inforce prejudices, so that one could readily imagine Italians and Chinese actually yelling their own sides on as the violence flares up. Undoubtedly set for a long video shelf life.

No Man's Land is another exciting thriller starring

Richard Panebianco and Sari Chang in *China Girl*.

The respective Godfathers of the two communities, Perito (Robert Miano) and Gung-Tu (James Hong), want peace and quiet. Their young pretenders, Yung-Gao (Russell Wong), and particularly his cousin Tsu-Chin (Joey Chin) and their opposite number Alby Moore (James Russo), are, for such teenagers, much deeper set in their respective racism and would prefer a terminal punch-up.

Despite such a dangerous backdrop, Tooy (Richard Panebianco), Alby's younger brother, becomes seriously involved with Tyan-Hwa (Sari Chang), Yang's sister.

The implication of this cross culture liaison are devastating, it provides the excuse for their contemporaries to get excessively tough and their elders to become even tougher, as all our war threats to engulf Canal Street.

The body count is graphically high, as Tooy and Tyan are finally sacrificed, band in hand, to the mindless mayhem.

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inevitably tends to re-inforce prejudices, so that one could readily imagine Italians and Chinese actually yelling their own sides on as the violence flares up. Undoubtedly set for a long video shelf life.

No Man's Land is another exciting thriller starring

Charlie Sheen playing the boss of a gang of very organised car thieves who specialise in stealing only the latest Porsches, a rookie cop is sent undercover to work as a mechanic in a garage owned by Sheen as the Captain of Detectives is convinced that the cars are broken down for resale to a secret location.

However, the young cop quickly comes under the influence of Sheen and has great difficulty deciding exactly where his loyalty lies.

Other releases include Mr

Roberts starring Henry Fonda and James Cagney, a classic from Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, *The Gay Divorce* (a pre-war film when gay meant something completely different); *Eye on the Sparrow* starring Keith Carradine. For children *Thundercate the Movie, Scabert and The Kid who Knew too Much* British (Australian?) comedy with Dame Edna Everage and the Russ Abbott show are also available.

The above films are by courtesy of Video Mauf (2432809), Video Club (5724372) and VFI, Safeway, Farwaniya.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES**KTV 1**

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News via Satellite
3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'aab: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 World News via Satellite
4.25 Gbuyoum Bila Malai: historical serial, starring Mahmoud Abu Ghareeb, Abeer Essa, Rashida Dejani.
5.15 Ban Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today. A look at communication systems.

6.00 Songs

7.00 News Summary

7.05 With Studeots: hosted by Essa Rushoud

7.45 Folklore: presented by Mohammad Mutair

8.15 Good Evening and Local News

9.00 News in Arabic

9.50 Rabeeb Fi Al Asifat: last episode, starring Mustafa Falahi, Hina Tharwat, Ahsan Qalawi, Hussein Sharbini.

10.50 Songs, Music and Dance: a variety show featuring top performers from the Arab World.

12.15 News Summary

12.25 World News via Satellite

1.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

The good, the bad and the bitchy in *Falcon Crest*, tonight at 10.30 pm.

Football tournament. Live from Kazema Sports Club
6.30 Micro at Work: "Is There A Place For Me?" Computers have boosted tourism by providing quick access to information in countries around the world. This episode examines the use of computers in making hotel and airline bookings.

10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Can I Get A Witness?" Balki who is being blackmailed doesn't give in to threats and calls in the police.

10.30 Falcon Crest: "Dead End." In this episode, Lance is in trouble: Angela's resolve to take revenge acquires new dimensions; and Emma is arrested for harbouring prostitutes.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

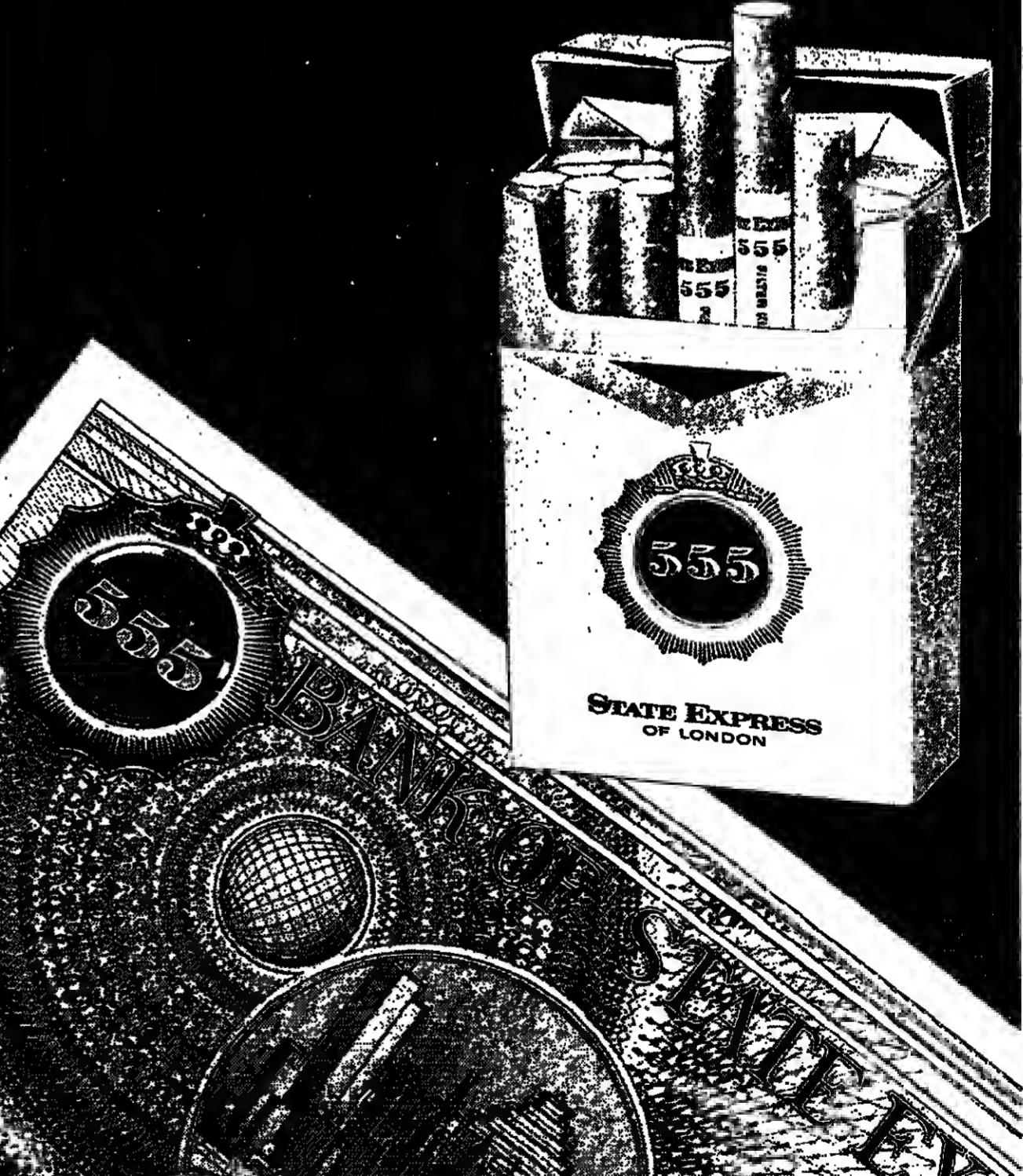
of the Divine". A look at the power of some men and women who find minerals and water by using unconventional tools, like twigs.

10.00 Perfect Strangers: "Can I Get A Witness?" Balki who is being blackmailed doesn't give in to threats and calls in the police.

10.30 Falcon Crest: "Dead End." In this episode, Lance is in trouble: Angela's resolve to take revenge acquires new dimensions; and Emma is arrested for harbouring prostitutes.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FROM the sublime to the ridiculous there is only one step — Napoleon Bonaparte, French general-statesman (1769-1821).

Political debate raging in Iran

By Claude van Engeland

BRUSSELS: The normally active political debate in Iran's ruling circles is growing even more vociferous as general elections draw near.

The subject of controversy is how much political freedom to grant candidates and parties during the campaign for April's election.

But in addition to settling this basic issue, say Western diplomats observing the debate in Tehran, the outcome could determine the credibility of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri as designated successor to the nation's "supreme leader," Ayatollah Khomeini.

Montazeri has insisted that several political parties should be allowed to exist and field candidates for elections to the Majlis, Iran's 270-seat legislative body. A source close to Montazeri says the cleric is keen on having the Liberation Movement of Iran, led by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, take part in the election campaign. Dr Bazargan opposes continuing the 7 1/2-year war against Iraq. He is also known to support restoring political and economic ties with the US.

Reason

Montazeri, on the other hand, has long been known for his anti-American views and opposition to any compromise with the present Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein. In fact, in a speech Nov 29, Montazeri's insistence on opening up the system to those such as Bazargan took Western observers in Tehran somewhat by surprise.

The reason behind Montazeri's stance, according to an Iranian journalist contacted in Tehran, is that liberalised politics could provide a safety valve. Montazeri, this source says, believes that the best way to ensure the survival of the current Islamic regime is to open the system, allowing a modicum of dissent to be expressed in public.

However, Iran's minister of the interior (who is in charge of organising the elections) apparently disagrees. Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Mohtashami has announced that only independent candidates would be allowed to run and that no

national political party would be authorised to take part in the campaign. Mohtashami said this was because the commission set up 1982 to legalise political parties hasn't yet completed its work.

Iranian exile sources say that without political parties, it will be almost impossible for the masses of poorly educated Iranians to understand the political bent of each individual candidate. Mohtashami's system, they charge, will favour the re-election of candidates who are already in office and thus more widely known. Bazargan and his allies have already announced a boycott of the election if they are not allowed to organise their party nationwide.

Khomeini, Prime Minister Hossein Musavi, and Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani have so far not intervened in the debate. Western observers in Tehran say that if Montazeri's view doesn't eventually win the day, it will be a clear sign of his political weakness.

Reappear

Paradoxically the conflict between Montazeri and Mohtashami comes at a time when Montazeri appears to have staged a successful political comeback. Montazeri's position had been weakened in the aftermath of the US-arms-to-Iran affair.

Last Sept 28, Mehdi Hasbemi — the brother of Montazeri's son-in-law — was executed after being convicted of a series of crimes. Hashemi was a close associate of Montazeri and was widely believed by Western intelligence services to direct Lebanon's Islamic Jihad, a group that still holds several foreign hostages. Hashemi's arrest in late 1986 had been widely seen as part of a secret deal between Iran and the US.

In the months following the November 1986 revelations of the Iran-Contra affair, Montazeri maintained a discreetly low profile. Only in recent weeks, has he reappeared on Iranian TV and radio, reportedly after Khomeini himself ordered that Montazeri's speeches be aired without any editing. And since then, Iranian leaders have publicly reaffirmed that Montazeri is Khomeini's successor.

The Christian Science Monitor.

The trick that works only once

By Linda Feldman

WASHINGTON: It's a great trick, but you can do it only once.

That well-worn maxim is hitting home to many private relief organisations, struggling to inspire Americans to send money for Ethiopia's latest famine.

The "trick" was the dramatic television footage of starving Ethiopians that shocked America on Oct 23, 1984, and galvanised an unprecedented outpouring of concern and cash. Now there's another drought, threatening 5 to 7 million people. The news media have covered it, but only sporadically. Some Americans aren't getting the message. And many who are, aren't responding.

Save the Children, for example, needs \$2 million for its Ethiopian relief efforts for Jan 1 to July 1. By the end of December, it had raised only \$63,000, an encouraging jump but still low.

"By and large, last time's people were one-time givers," says Betty Woodward, spokesperson for Save the Children. "They responded emotionally to the famine. They needed something visceral to push them to respond."

Sabotage

Officials from private relief organisations cite other reasons for resistance to giving.

• The "I thought we fixed it last time" attitude among some Americans. What many Americans don't understand, officials say, is that this is a new drought and that it came unusually soon after the last one. Many of the long-term development projects under way that will eventually help make some areas famine-resistant are not far enough along.

• Rebels sabotage aid. At least two full convoys have been attacked since last fall. The answer, say relief officials, is to

replace the trucks and carry on, not give up. As for the Ethiopian government, relief agencies report a high degree of cooperation in delivering aid.

• Bad publicity during the 1984-85 famine. Reports about food rotting on the docks in Ethiopia were true, but blown out of proportion, officials say. Several relief agencies, as well as the United States Agency for International Development, say they have documentation to show that 99 per cent of relief aid reached its final destination. Also disputed were the damaging allegations from Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders, a French medical-relief agency) and other relief outfits that more Ethiopians were dying from government resettlement policies than from the famine.

• The media. Because little time has passed since the last famine, the news isn't as "new" as it could be, and the level of interest isn't as great as in 1984-85. The pictures are also not as dramatic. Because of the early-warning systems put in place after the last drought, public and private relief agencies jumped into action when the first signs of trouble appeared last summer. So far, there are no camps, no scenes of mass death, though agencies stress the situation could get much worse.

Coverage

Organisations also urge media coverage of long-term development and the gains made since the last famine: the new trees and ponds, the education programmes for girls that boost infant-survival rates, the new types of seeds being used.

• Concerns closer to home. Homelessness and domestic poverty have grown as issues in America over the past few years, and many Americans cite the need to "take care of our own."

The Christian Science Monitor.

Breaches of election laws occur regularly

Unwieldy US presidential campaigns

By Scott Armstrong, and Cheryl Sullivan

LOS ANGELES: Presidential campaigns have become so vast and unwieldy, kitting together hundreds of aides and tens of thousands of volunteers almost overnight, that it is virtually impossible to maintain tight control. As a result, political experts say breaches of federal election laws and rule-bending occur almost daily.

"Violations are very common," says Jules Glazer, a political accountant who is treasurer of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign in California. "They are in every campaign."

Despite this, politicking is considered far cleaner today than during the pre-Watergate days of the early 1970s.

"You're talking about a major organisational effort — one bigger than most corporations in America," says Robert Beckel, a political strategist who managed Walter Mondale's 1984 campaign.

Controlling a campaign has surfaced as an issue in the wake of recent reports of violations by several presidential aspirants. Perhaps most serious have been the allegations of financial irregularities by Gary Hart's campaign in 1984 and again this election cycle. The Hart camp is accused of receiving private donations from a California businessman in excess of the \$1,000 limit placed on individual contributions.

GOP hopefuls Robert Dole, and Pierre du Pont discovered last month that a political consulting firm they had hired forged voter signatures needed to qualify the candidates for the Texas ballot. Republican contender Pat Robertson, meanwhile, is being investigated by the Federal Election Commission



(FEC) for possible spending violations involving a leased computer system.

Byproduct

Such infractions are partly the byproduct of today's Byzantine nominating and general-election process, experts say. In the old days, when presidential candidates were chosen by the party elite, campaigns were compact and accountability more easily defined. But the modern system of mass primaries has put a premium on grassroots organising, fund raising, and the hiring of scores of political professionals.

As the dimensions of the task have grown, management and

control have become more difficult. A winning campaign this year is likely to spend upwards of \$75 million (including federal matching funds), employ 2,000 workers, and include a network of hundreds of thousands of volunteers in 50 states. It will employ as many lawyers and accountants as a large corporation (the Reagan campaign spent \$2.5 million on these services in 1980), and each month it will file financial reports to the FEC as thick as a Manhattan phone book.

To add to this the complexity of today's election laws and, analysts say, you have the recipe for inevitable infractions.

"It would be very hard to have

a major organisation today that didn't violate at least the spirit of the law if not more than that," says Stephen Hess, a presidential scholar at the Brookings Institution.

Although improprieties can taint a candidate, a presidential aspirant cannot be expected to know all details of the campaign. "You have to hand off big pieces of these campaigns," says Beckel.

The best the candidate can do is set the moral tone, hire the best people possible, and hold them accountable.

"Just as you wouldn't expect the chairman of General Motors to know everything that's going

on at the plant in Fresno, Calif., you can't expect a candidate to know what's going on at his campaign in Fresno," says Joe Cerrone, a California-based political consultant.

Campaign finance, involving detailed federal reporting requirements and the raising of vast sums, presents the biggest potential pitfall. Spending in this presidential-election cycle is expected to top \$450 million, up from \$325 million in 1984.

Financial feasts or famines each present their own accounting problems. In the early days of the 1984 Hart campaign, for instance, when the candidate was bouncing along in relative obscurity, some 3,000 cheques a month, or about \$250,000, were trickling into the campaign's coffers. In the month after his win in the New Hampshire primary, the cheque flow swelled to \$48,000, from \$3.5 million.

Campaign officials say this is tough to monitor. The best they can do is encourage people not to do it, carry out spot checks, and watch for chunks of money coming from people at the same address.

• State spending limits. Under federal regulations, candidates can spend only \$745,000 in the crucial Iowa caucuses campaign and only \$44,000 in the important New Hampshire primary.

As a result, many campaigns engage in "creative financing," charging as much as possible to the national headquarters, renting cars in neighbouring states, and booking accommodations in out-of-state hotels. Overtaking in these first contests is so common that the limits need to be revised, some political experts say.

• Double contributions. Although individuals are limited to giving \$1,000 to a campaign, they can skirt this by having employees or relatives give money and then reimbursing them for it.

Campaign officials say this is

to difficult. Despite the infractions that occur, analysts say campaigns are far more accountable than they were before the federal election laws were revised in 1971. "I don't think the law is weak," says Herb Alexander, a political scientist at the University of Southern California. "If there's any weakness, it's that the FEC doesn't always do as much as it might" to enforce the law.

The Christian Science Monitor.

An urge to gain a release from powerlessness

Blacks are cheaper than bricks in South Africa

By Ned Temko

JOHANNESBURG: There was a problem with the Pretoria suburb's newest office complex: a brick wall on the edge of a parking lot that encroached on the site.

The problem was not particularly South African.

Early one morning, a group of black workers arrived. Brick by painstakingly preserved brick, hour by hour, they began disassembling the wall. They placed the bricks in neat piles. Then, they began the job's second stage: reusing the old bricks in the new building.

This taught me something fundamental about South Africa and its economy," recalls a foreign businessman who watched from his nearby office: "Here, blacks are cheaper than bricks."

Anger

It is a realisation most blacks in the turbulent urban townships come to early, and it causes two things a bone in them. The first is a burning anger. The second is an instinct to keep that anger inside most of the time: blacks are too cheap, jobs too scarce, and whites (who hand out jobs, hire blacks, and control levers of state power) too powerful.

The equation dehumanises. It is an instinct to keep that anger inside most of the time: blacks are too cheap, jobs too scarce, and whites (who hand out jobs, hire blacks, and control levers of state power) too powerful.

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white family.

She smiled obligingly as her boss, an insurance executive, told me that "she was like one of the family," how he and his wife would always keep part of the family dinner for her to eat afterwards, and how they'd opened a bank account where she could set aside part of her salary for the future.

Fear helps breed in blacks a reluctance to rebel, according to the country's foremost historian on black politics, Tom Lodge of Witwatersrand University. "Particularly since the state of emergency, only the footloose

resists," he said.

Early out of her boss's earshot, Mrs Ngcawuzile said: "The master and madam do not treat me well. Every morning, I must wake up six o'clock, seven days a week, even on my day off, to put breakfast on the table.

... At night, I must stay with the children ... I am not allowed to sleep in case something happens to the young ones. And many times the master and madam don't come home until one-thirty or two in the morning!"

Economic and political calculations also play their part. Many blacks, as the government repeatedly assures its white constituents, want no part of a revolution.

These blacks may not like being "cheaper than bricks," but

Getting more than I bargain for

By Kathy Cuddihy

ON an impulse, I stopped off at our local fruit and vegetable shop the other day. I came away with the conclusion that I really should go there more often. Not because the selection of fresh produce looks so good, and not because the prices are so reasonable, but because it's such fun. The cornucopia of colour stimulates me, and the stall-owners entertain me to such a degree that the happy effects linger long after I've gone home.

Usually I'm the only Western woman wandering up and down the long lanes of food. This distinguishing feature makes me stand out like a beacon toward which all the hawkers shout their prices and around which the "bag boys" gather in the hope of being hired to carry the morning's purchases.

When a seller shows particular persistence or charm, I stop to examine his selection.

"How much are these tomatoes?" I query, careful not to show too much interest.

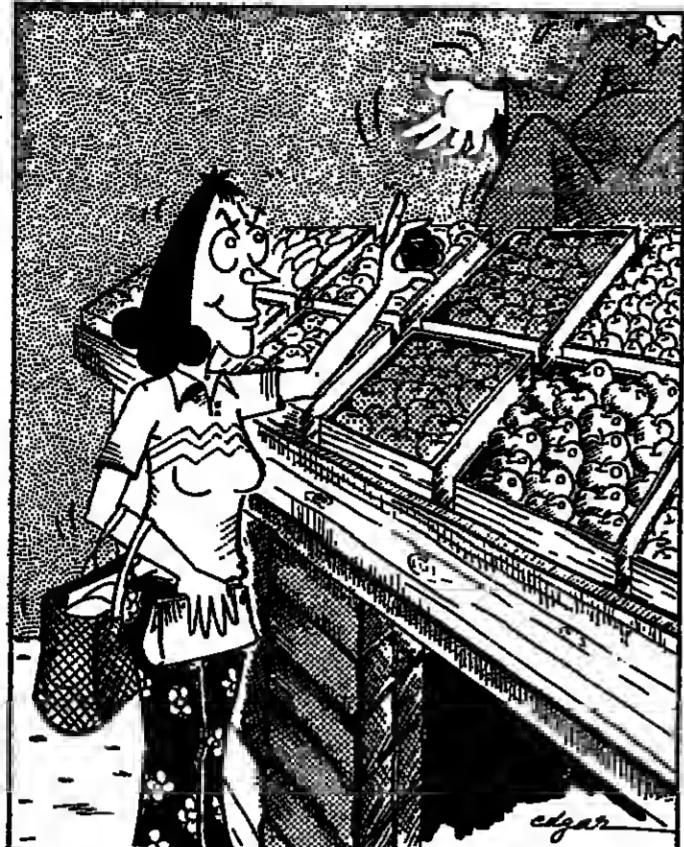
"Ten riyals a box, madam."

"Are they top quality?" I ask suspiciously.

"They are the best, madam. Every one of them is fresh, firm and delicious, just the way Nature meant them to be."

"I think, my friend, that Nature never intended these poor victims on the bottom of the box to look quite so battered. As you can see, she has tried to hide some of the damage by giving them a blanket of mold."

Instead of showing embarrassment at being caught, the weathered little man gave a cry of incredulous dismay. How could this possibly have happened; his gestures imply as his arms fly into the air and his eyes grow



large and look to heaven for an answer.

"Please don't distress yourself," I console. "Perhaps we can still do business. A significant lowering of your price would help me to decide."

"Of course, Madam. In the circumstances it is the least I can do. Please let me offer them to you for 8 riyals."

"Well, quite honestly, I had something like 4 riyals in mind."

"You jest, of course, Madam, but because you have such a sense of humour, I am prepared to make a sacrifice and let you have the entire box for 7 riyals."

"I'll tell you what. Let me replace some of those furry specimens with a few as-Nature-meant-them tomatoes and I will relieve you of the box for the princely sum of 5 riyals."

As my little friend reluctantly handed me my box of hard-won tomatoes he stated, "Your bargaining is

too unrelenting for an old woman. Are you sure you don't have Arab blood in your veins?"

Beat

Now doesn't a little exchange like that beat going to an impersonal supermarket? In a store I would have quietly picked my tomatoes, paid for them and left. Here, I not only get my tomatoes, but I have the satisfaction of thinking that I got them for a great price. And I know full well that the lovely little old man who sold them to me didn't lose out either. He probably wishes all his customers afforded him as much profit as I did.

Successful bargaining makes me feel good, but the delightful tradition of baksheesh makes me feel better. Small gifts of fresh ginger, an extra piece of fruit, a handful of beans added after everything has been weighed are given with a special grace and received with warm pleasure.

"Occasionally, one of the

sellers gives me baksheesh that has a particular reference to our negotiations. A lively young wag trying to flog trays of vegetables comes instantly to mind.

After haggling for some time over the price of potatoes and coming to no compromise, the fellow appealed to my emotions.

"I am just a poor man who has the heavy responsibility of looking after his very large family. Why do you want to deprive me of a few riyals?"

"My man, I can well sympathise, for I am but a poor woman who has the constant grief of trying to clear her bank overdraft. I would never consider depriving you, just as I hope you would never think of robbing me. Therefore I surely must have misheard your last price, since it was much higher than anyone else's."

Eventually, after more beating down on my part and more concessions on his, we came to an agreement.

"Madam, your good Arabic inspires me to give in to you. Your tenacity wears me down and leaves me little choice but to give in. Take your potatoes."

"Kind gentleman, you make your offer with such sincerity that I am forced to accept. I would happily have given in to you, except that my bank manager is also tenacious. And his language is not nearly as gentle as mine. A riyal saved is a riyal that can go to pacify my banker."

Just as I was about to leave, the good-humoured character handed me a bag of plum, fresh garlic.

"Please accept this gift. I understand that in your culture you have a superstition which says garlic keeps vampires away. Perhaps it might help in the case of your bank manager."

I definitely couldn't have this much fun at a supermarket.

Islamic marriage service growing

By Tahira Shaheed

"WHERE are all the single Muslim women?" ask Membership Coordinators of Salaam Marriage-Intro Service International. Applications keep coming in from Muslim men throughout the United States and overseas, but for this community service to work, many more women are needed to get involved. When the idea of a marriage introduction service for Muslims was conceived, SMS INT'L expected to be flooded by female applicants, and just the opposite has happened.

Started almost 3 years ago, in Newark, New Jersey, SMS INT'L was developed to help single men and women of the Islamic faith, and those interested in meeting Muslims, find compatible mates. The service is handled in a personal and confidential manner through the mails, using a detailed application form, individual attention and review by Membership Coordinators, and some computer assistance in the matching process.

To date, inquiries or applications have come in from every state in the United States and over 60 foreign countries. Numerous marriages and future marriages have been reported and the service has only reached a very small percentage of its real potential.

One of the main reasons for the success and strong interest in the service is that marriage is very important in Islam. For example, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "When one is married he secures half his religion. So let him fear God in the other half." With marriage

having such a strong priority in the physical and spiritual development of Muslims, and a worldwide population of over one billion adherents, the potential of SMS INT'L is tremendous!

Another important point is that SMS INT'L is absolutely not a dating service. "Dating by Western standards is strictly prohibited in Islam. All users of this service are urged to learn and practice the proper "Aadaah" (Islamic ethics of the Holy Quran and life example of Prophet Muhammad) regarding marriage and socialising between members of the opposite sex.

"We are committed to helping the worldwide Islamic community through our marriage services," says Mustafa Abdul-Batin, founder of SMS INT'L.

"Marriage and family life are vital for Muslims and this service can help those who are located throughout North America and elsewhere."

The Marriage Service was established to help the worldwide Muslim community become stronger by bringing Muslims and other right-minded people together. Stronger marriages will lead to better families and eventually stronger communities."

Some of the immediate problems facing single Muslims wanting to marry are as follows:

1. Geography — The US Muslim population is very spread out and diverse in ethnicity especially in the United States and Canada.

2. Social Activities — Many communities need to have more and better social and cultural

events, providing a positive atmosphere for single Muslims to meet.

3. Children — Sisters and brothers with children from a previous marriage or relationship have an especially difficult time finding a mate willing to become part of an already existing family structure.

4. Relocation — Many Muslims would like to find a mate in another city, state or even a foreign country for the purpose of relocating to begin a new life.

5. Imam — Some Muslims prefer a particular Imam (community leader) or school of thought and wish to find a mate with a similar outlook.

6. Compatibility — Regardless of geographic restraints or cultural activity level of the Muslim community, finding a man or woman you feel comfortable enough to marry is most important.

Factors SMS INT'L plans to increase its advertising in the United States as well as overseas, despite the high cost of overseas advertising. Ads have been placed in Islamic publications in the United States with a tremendous response from Muslim men, but a much smaller response from women.

Women's reasons for this include:

The low ratio of unmarried Muslim women in the US to Muslim men.

Poor circulation of Islamic publications, and also a certain hesitancy on the part of women to approach a service like this.

Other factors affecting the service itself are the expectations of the members. SMS INT'L constantly appeals to its

members to be more flexible in the type of person they wish to meet. Many members requirements are unrealistic in terms of age, educational and ethnic compatibility.

Many men in the service are unrealistic and unfair by requiring only younger, or virgins. In some cases the men insist on only being introduced to virgins, even though many of the men themselves have been previously married. Many of the women are equally unfair in their expectations by demanding "Prince Charming" in terms of physique, income or education level, although the sisters are not nearly as selective as the male applicants.

Of the 50% Arab and immigrants membership in SMS, many men requested to be introduced to only Arab or Caucasian women, and this is particularly hard to service. A research study in the United States by the Islamic Teaching Center in Indianapolis, Indiana consisted of a 75% male and 25% female sample. It is believed this is a realistic ratio of unmarried Middle Eastern men to women in the United States considering our inquiries have been mostly from men. Therefore many of the requests for women of their own ethnic background, and Caucasian women (there is a very low percentage of Caucasian Muslim women in the United States) has created a serious problem.

SMS INT'L is appealing to single Muslim women and non-Muslim women who are interested in learning about the Islamic culture and lifestyle, to write to the organization for full information on the functions of the service.

By Kuldip Nayar

THE suicide of three sisters in Kanpur because their parents did not have enough money for their dowries has shaken many people. The girls were found hanging from the ceiling in their house in a modest middle-class area.

The eldest girl was a post-graduate student in Hindi and the other two were studying for an MA and a BA. Their father, Mr Daya Prasad Sahu, assis-

tant administrative officer in the Life Insurance Company, earns £130 a month.

He told police that talks about the marriages of his two elder daughters broke down three times because their prospective in-laws demanded too much money.

In India, where marriages are generally arranged by parents, a dowry -- which can include money, a television set

and other household goods -- is essential and is decided beforehand. There have been instances where the bridegroom has returned from the bride's house without marrying her because the contracted dowry was not forthcoming.

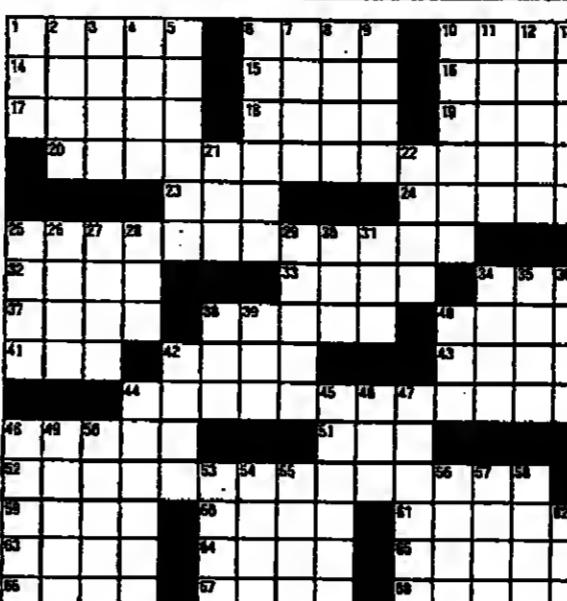
The Government has a rule that public servants will not accept any dowry, including a house and a car.

A law against dowry is as old as the British Raj in India, and the punishment has been stiffened in the past few years because of increasing instances of bride-burning for not having brought enough dowry and in-laws' persistent demands even after marriage. It is a social evil which society has taken in its stride, like discrimination against people of low caste.

You should take care not to exaggerate. Do not rely on your imagination and do not believe you have heard what you would have liked to hear. Avoid deceiving others as well as yourself. Be cordial.

Do not shy away from doing something that has to be done. There will be some difficulties but they are not insurmountable. You will be able to do an old friend a favour. Be reliable.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Dam on the Nile
6 Necessity for
10 Jumpers do it
14 Nuance
15 Elf of Persian myth
18 Ring of light around the sun
19 Ruler of the underworld
21 River to the Caspian
25 Peerless
26 Image
27 Chromosome part
28 Function
29 Familiar
30 DDE opponent
31 Goli gadjet
34 Knights of "Star Wars" saga
35 Twirl
36 Crosby
38 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
39 Louis XIV, for one
40 Carp
42 Dog's bone
44 Knitting pattern, from the Scots
45 Pastry tray item
46 — rose
47 Maintain
48 Author of "The Talisman"
49 Craft for Hawaths
50 Assign
53 West Coast players
54 City on the Colorado
55 "Caro nome," for example
56 Irrigate
57 Prickly pear
58 Con
62 Juna VIP

DOWN
1 Where the Indus flows
2 February, 1988 sports event
3 Acknowledge
4 Spring forward or fall back?
5 Participant in 20 Across
32 Tennis winners
33 Exigency
34 Ona of the 3 B's
37 Region
38 "That which we call —"
40 Head covering for a poll
41 Ship's course
42 Ebb's opposite
43 Host at Valhalla
44 Class of events in 20 Across
48 Alarm
51 Prompt
52 Location of 20 Across

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
DON'T SPREAD THE FERTILIZER

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♦ Q J 2

♦ 7 6

♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2

♦ 5 4

WEST

♦ 10 9 6 5 4

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Pass

Australian Bicentennial no cause for celebration

Aborigines culturally demoralised

As Australia celebrates 200 years of European occupation, its first inhabitants remain virtual outcasts, living largely in rural areas, in a continent they have inhabited for some 40,000 years.

By Richard Bill

SYDNEY, Australia. (AP) — Australia's aborigines have little reason to rejoice after 200 years of European occupation. In fact, aboriginal militants have declared 1988 a year of mourning.

Australia's first inhabitants remain virtual outcasts, living largely in rural areas, in a continent they have inhabited for some 40,000 years.

Aborigines were granted equal rights in 1967, and there is no institutionalised form of racial segregation. But there is a yawning cultural gap between the aborigines and the European settlers, although the government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in health plans and education programmes.

Aboriginal unemployment is six times the national average of 7.3 per cent. Aborigines typically earn half the national average wage of about \$10 dollars a week. Eleven per cent of them have never been to school, compared with one per cent for the rest of the country. Official statistics also show that an aborigine is 16 times more

likely to go to jail than a white. Infant mortality among aborigines is nearly three times that of non-aborigines and 32 per cent of aboriginal children up to the age of nine have some form of trachoma (blindness), compared with only 1.6 per cent of non-aborigines.

"The state of aboriginal affairs in this country is nothing short of disgraceful," said aboriginal affairs secretary Charles Perkins.

Perkins calls the coming months the "most crucial" in Australia's history because of anticipated protests against the bicentennial.

Aboriginal activists have vowed to send a re-enactment of the first convict voyage back to sea, calling it a celebration of invasion, not of the nation.

Recognises

Prime Minister Bob Hawke has sought a treaty with aborigines, acknowledging many "grave injustices" against an indigenous people who number 160,000, or one per cent of the population of 16 million.

They include instances of "pacification by force" between the arrival of the first

white settlers and the 1880s, when whites killed many aborigines and drove others into the bush.

The government now recognises that aborigines had prior ownership of a continent dubbed "Terra nullius", or empty land, when it was settled by Europeans in 1788. The decision is expected to have major implications in future land rights claims.

Hawke, in calling for a compact of understanding, implored all Australians to understand what colonisation meant to aborigines.

Of the 260 languages spoken in pre-colonial times, only a handful exist now. Many aborigines live in poverty in camps on fringes of outback towns with no running water or electricity and often open sewage.

Justice Marcus Einfeld, a human rights official, wrote after visiting one such camp, declaring "this can't be happening in Australia".

Drunkenness, wretched poverty and crime remain major social problems.

"There can hardly be a civilised person in Australia who



An Aboriginal warrior: Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke has sought a treaty with aborigines acknowledging many "grave injustices" against an indigenous people who number 160,000 or one per cent of the Australian population.

does not have sympathy for the aboriginal community," said the Australian, the country's only national newspaper in a recent editorial.

"They have been dispossessed, they have seen their culture destroyed, for many years they suffered gross discrimination and now they are profoundly culturally demoralised."

Although a celebration of 200 years of achievement, the paper said: "In terms such as these many aboriginal people will participate in bicentennial projects.

"But others will regard the last 200 years as such a unmilitated tragedy that they will decline to participate in the bicentenary at all."

Striking a balance between tradition and modernity

Eskimos caught in a tug of war

By Gary Regenstreif

IN UVIK, Northwest Territories: Goose plucking, seal skinning and tea boiling contests are becoming mere memories for many natives of northern Canada.

Gone from the icy wilderness outside this Arctic community near the Beaufort Sea are the throngs of men who set out for up to six months at a time 25 years ago to hunt wolf, lynx, fox and caribou. Pelts were their sole source of income.

The Eskimo drum dance is giving way to breakdancing. And villages like Inuvik, a town of 3,000 whose name means place where people are born, are losing their knowledge of native tongues.

Some in Canada's north embrace the customs and technology imported by white man which boosted their standard of living.

But others, like Inuit Mary Ettagiak, sensing their heritage slipping away, are caught between the tug of their roots and the lure of modernity.

"They're confused," said Ettagiak, a 26-year-old mental health worker. "We're trying to adapt it and also hang on to our culture."

The largest influx of whites in recent history has been through oil companies which have spent the past three decades exploring what are believed to be vast reserves of untapped oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea.

The firms hired some native

labourers for work on rigs and at base camps. But they found themselves unemployed whenever oil prices dropped, making exploration too costly. Some learned to establish businesses in the area.

"Before, just about everybody was hunting," said Ettagiak. "There's hardly anybody out there now. The young don't know how to hunt."

Conveniences

One who welcomes the conveniences of modern technology is the outspoken chief of the Inuvik Dene band of Indians who, however, blames the white man for importing vice as well.

"Nobody loses his culture," Chief Ceco McCauley said in an interview in her house, equipped with a modern kitchen and video cassette recorder. "I can still set rabbit snares but I don't have the time. I love the easy things like the phone."

"The problem," she said, "is coming from nothing to a heck of a lot in too short a time."

Most young natives drop out of high school, and alcoholism and suicide are increasingly widespread problems among youth seeking escape from unemployment, and what McCauley describes as cultural alienation.

In a weekly column in a local newspaper *News/North*, McCauley often lobbies the territorial or federal governments for more funding to combat alcoholism or provide job

training and blames them for a lack of economic development.

"The statistics on child welfare are depressing," she said in a recent column. "Children have suffered psychologically. There is alienation, confusion in cultural identity."

Inuvik has 3,000 people, four pubs and seven churches but no bowling alley, cinema or community centre. Recent community gatherings have been called to cope with a rash of glue sniffing by young natives.

"It's from a lack of recreation," McCauley said. "And they're learning from white people."

"Before they didn't have electricity but they were industrious and happy. Now they know all the vices. It's getting worse all the time."

About a quarter of the town is unemployed, making it difficult to afford unleaded gas at around \$2.50 a gallon and the 75-80 dollars a month needed for electricity to heat a one-bedroom flat.

It was worse a year and a half ago when a military base closed and 1,200 people left, taking about 75,000 dollars in weekly payroll out of the local economy.

At the same time oil companies lifted anchor because of a sharp drop in the price of crude. The manager of the local Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Stuart Coates, said 35 to 40 per cent of the bank's loan portfolio was lost as one-third of the town's 150 businesses



Some Eskimos in Canada's north embrace the customs and technology imported by the white men, but others like Inuit Mary Ettagiak (right) sense their heritage slipping away.

closed down.

Part-time mayor Gordon Campbell, a white man who runs a garage in town, acknowledges there is no outlet for the youths but is angered that whites get blamed for their woes.

"They've just got nothing to do," he said.

Campbell predicted that integrated schools, more interracial marriages and a dying language will make it difficult to preserve the heritage.

"It's a doomed culture," he said.

Chief McCauley is also resigned to the new ways.

"I'm all for development,"

she said. "We can live in both worlds. The new ways are here to stay. Natives may as well live with it."

"They've just got nothing to do," he said.

Campbell predicted that integrated schools, more interracial marriages and a dying language will make it difficult to preserve the heritage.

"It's a doomed culture," he said.

She will still make beaver fur and moosehide boots for the children with white fox fur hooded coats and wolf fur mitts.

By David Storey

Primitive Thai tribe heading for doom

CHIANGMAI, Thailand. (Reuters) — The "Spirits of the Yellow Leaves" Thailand's most reclusive people, are headed for destruction, victims of a rigid belief in the commands of the spirits and the march of the 20th Century.

The primitive tribe, numbering less than 150 men, women and children, calls itself the Mlabri, or forest people.

But so elusive have they been over the centuries that other tribes doubted their physical existence, identifying them as spirits associated with the shelters of yellowing leaves they left behind in their restless jungle wandering.

The Mlabri believe that the spirits do not allow them to cultivate land, and that they must keep on the move.

Anthropologists, missionaries and tour operators are trying to save the Mlabri, each with their own motives, but the tribe's ancient way of life based on hunting and root-gathering in the dwindling northern forests seems doomed.

"I cannot imagine what will happen to them," said Surin Pookajorn, a Thai academic who spent three years researching the peripatetic tribespeople and is promoting a project to ease them into a more settled life.

The erosion of the Mlabri lifestyle has been dramatic in



A young mother of the elusive Mlabri tribe, known as the "Spirits of the Yellow Leaves", tends her children under a primitive bamboo shelter. The tiny tribe is threatened by the encroachment of civilisation on their forest habitat.

Chiangmai. "We take them cigarettes, blankets and rice. They don't even ask for money to have pictures taken."

The tribe of stocky, gentle people is believed to have drifted to their present homeland from Laos, bringing with them a distinct language and a complex belief in spirits that obliges them to remain on the move.

Danish anthropologist Jesper Trier, in a 1986 study, quoted a tribal elder as saying:

"When the forests disappears we will all be punished by the great spirit, everything will dry out."

Spirit

The spirit of the sky, the strongest of spirits, does not allow the Mlabri to cultivate crops on their own land, although circumstances have forced them to work the land of the bigger, powerful Hmong tribe for a pittance.

"The Hmong treat them like slaves," said Surin, who is attached to Bangkok's Silpakorn University. They are given rice or a pig in return for a promise of work for a Hmong village and become permanently indebted.

Where formerly the Mlabri ranged over vast tracts of forests, grubbing for roots, catching bamboo rats and wild pigs and hewing their only instruments from bamboo, they have become increasingly tied to one place.

Still the spirits do not allow them to settle down and live.

under anything other than their traditional shelters, and they sleep in family groups beside wood fires that also keep dangerous animals at bay.

Every few days, wearing just a loincloth or ragged clothes given by the Hmong, they still pack up their meagre possessions of bamboo water carriers, a few mats and spears, and erect a new shelter, sometimes only a few hundred yards away.

"Fear just dominates their lives," said Gene Long, an American new tribes missionary who has tried for seven years to help Mlabri families settle down in a remote piece of land where he grows fruit trees.

"They come to me when they need help, when someone is sick," he said, adding that a group of 34 living with him had left last May and had not been seen since.

He accuses those who want to preserve the present Mlabri lifestyle unchanged of violating their human rights. "They are treating these people like specimens in a zoo. They must be given the chance to advance if they want to," he said.

Although they often change their spouses, the Mlabri stick rigidly to the principle of not marrying outside the tribe.

But slowly old customs are breaking down. They used to simply place their dead in trees, where they were often eaten by animals. Now, under pressure from other tribes, they bury them in the ground.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf banks set to boost their London operations

LONDON, Feb 16. (Kuma): Gulf banks are set to increase their London operations in 1988, despite plans to cut costs and reassess staffing levels at home, according to a specialised publication here yesterday.

In the next few months, three or four Gulf banks are likely to open new representative offices in the capital, beginning with Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, which expects to be in operation in late March, Middle East Economic Digest (Meed) reported in its latest issue.

In addition, the weekly noted that the banks are looking to upgrade employment in London.

A total of eight Gulf banks have already representative offices in the British capital. A bank establishing a representative office is only required to notify the Bank of England (Central Bank) within a month of doing so.

The banks conduct marketing activities together with keeping abreast of developments and products in the international financial markets, Meed added.

London is seen as having clear advantage over other banking centres, notably New York. The cost of running an office, high in London, is even notably higher in New York.

The magazine also pointed out that New York market does not compare with London as an international centre.

For many banks, a representative office is just a stepping stone towards the granting of a full banking licence. As a full bank, an institution is able to assist an international bank with

The development of retail services makes sense only for a bank whose retail client base at home is sufficiently broad to be worth supporting in London.

Oman's oil production will average 550,000 bpd

MUSCAT, Oman, Feb 16. (AP): Oman's oil production will continue during 1988 and the remaining two years of the present five-year plan at a daily average of 550,000 barrels, the Central Bank's monthly publication reported today.

The magazine, Al Markazi, said oil sales, which account for 81 per cent of state revenues, were forecast this year at 1065.3 million rials (\$2.7 billion).

Total government revenue this year is estimated to be 1,314.9 million rials (\$3.3 billion). State expenditure is estimated to be 1,566.9 million rials (\$4 billion).

It quoted Oil Minister Saeed Al Shafari as saying that if the member states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries adhered to production quotas agreed upon "prices are very likely to increase with a rise in demand."

Production

Oman is not a member of the 13-nation Opec, but the sultanate has been reducing its own production to help the organisation stabilise the world market around a barrel price of \$18.

Oman introduced on Feb 1 a five per cent reduction in its oil production in support of Opec, cutting daily output from 565,000 to 536,750 barrels. It was the third cut since September 1986.

A 15 per cent cut was made in state expenditure last year, to reduce what Al Markazi described as an "exploding fiscal deficit" which rose to 700.2 million rials (\$1.8 billion) as the result of the 1980's drop in oil prices.

US firms set to woo Arab buyers

MORE than 40 American companies are taking part in MEFEX 88, the 5th Middle East Food and Equipment Show set to take place in Bahrain from February 27 to March 2 at the Exhibition Centre, Bahrain.

The American pavilion at the exhibition will, in fact, have the largest number of companies, among the ten national groups in the show.

The American exhibitors range from traditional fruit-product companies, rice producers, packers to meat suppliers.

In addition there will be displays from ten marketing and promotional federations who will handle trade enquiries on behalf of manufacturers and suppliers in the United States.

These include the US Rice Council, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (Nasda), the US

KPMG, Masoud & Co. hold seminar

Decision support systems under review

By M.C. Bose

KPMG Peat Marwick, the leading management consultants in coordination with its representative office in Kuwait, Masoud & Co. Public Accountants held a top level presentation yesterday at Kuwait Meridien on the role of financial modelling and decision support system in business planning.

It was attended by over 35 top business executives and managers from oil, bank, investment, manufacturing and trading organisations in Kuwait.

The presentation started with the introductory speech by Masoud E. Sorkhou, the executive partner of Masoud & Co. Public Accountants.

Errol Babington a senior managing consultant from Peat Marwick London focused on applications of financial modelling and decision support systems using spread sheets and packages on a micro computer.

Projects

KPMG has offices in approximately 110 countries including 15 offices in the Middle East and 8 in the Gulf.

Babington joined Peat Marwick in April 1978. Since then he has specialised in corporate planning and the financial appraisal of investment projects, including the application of computer modelling and decision support systems in these areas.

Presentation

During the first week of this month another presentation was held in Peat Marwick's offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Babington said the local



Some of those who attended the seminar.

their budgeting and the management of their loans.

He also worked on the commissioning of a new general hospital in Saudi Arabia.

For this project he designed a hospital statistics reporting system and developed a series of computer models that were used both in the formulation of patient treatment plans and in the preparation of detailed operating budgets for the various divisions of the hospital.

Direction

At the corporate level, developing a strategy involves taking into consideration many internal and external factors.

Management has to consider the score of the organisation's activities and the values, expectations and goals of those who have a stake in the operation.

they don't pay enough attention to developing strategy for the business.

In the public sector, organisations now realise that they need to articulate their purpose and objectives and plan for the future.

Direction

At the corporate level, developing a strategy involves taking into consideration many internal and external factors.

The pace of technological and commercial change demands that companies wishing to harness the latest developments and to exploit market opportunities can only do so through sound and effective planning — too many companies fail because

In deciding the longer term direction of the organisation, the



Masoud E. Sorkhou addresses the seminar.

environmental influences likely to affect its future must be understood.

Competitive, economic, political, technological and social factors have to be analysed so that both threats and opportunities can be identified.

The functional areas of the firm have to be reviewed to focus on its strengths and weaknesses and how these may affect the strategic choice. Financial resources have to be matched to opportunities and the implications of change on the operation must be carefully considered.

Brian Taylor the Dubai-based management consultant of KPMG also addressed the seminar.

World Business Summary

Fishery official warns of counter-sanctions to US

SAPPORO, Japan, Feb 16. (Reuters): A Japanese fishery official today threatened revenge if the United States went ahead with plans to cut Japan's fishing rights in US waters. US Commerce Secretary William Verity said on Wednesday that because Japan had decided to continue research whaling its fish allocations in US waters could be cut by half.

"If this happens, there will be voices in the Japanese fishing industry calling for a cut in Japanese purchases of US fishery products," said Eishiro Shoji, vice-president of the Hokkaido Fisheries Association.

The economy of Japan's northern island of Hokkaido is largely dependent on fishing and its ships produce a quarter of Japan's total fish catch, Shoji said. He called the US Policy on fishing rights "reasonable and high-handed." In London, the International Whaling Commission announced on Monday that its members had voted 19-6 to call on Japan to stop research whaling. There were eight abstentions. The vote followed a proposal by Japan for a research study involving the killing of 300 minke whales in the Antarctic this season, which ends in March. In Tokyo, Agriculture Minister Takashi Sato told reporters: "We have no intention of suspending whale hunting for research purposes."

ANB profits rise sharply

Riyadh, Feb 16. (Reuters): Riyadhi-based Arab National Bank reported today a 32.3 per cent rise in 1987 profit, halting a two-year slide in earnings. Arab National, the first of Saudi Arabia's 11 banks to release 1987 earnings, said in a statement net profit rose to 201.2 million riyals (\$54 million) from 152.1 million in 1986 (\$40 million).

Bankers said the results were encouraging, but cautioned it was too early to predict a general upturn in profits for the Saudi banking industry which has been depressed by the need to make heavy loan loss provisions. Arab National Bank, owned 60 per cent by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Jordan's Arab Bank Ltd, is traditionally a "cash rich" bank and has kept a low profile in lending in the kingdom's private sector where problem loans are concentrated. As a result, bankers say, it has been able to place surplus cash with other banks in the "interbank market" and earn a comparatively risk-free return. The bank reduced the level of provisions set aside in its 1987 accounts by 28 per cent in 62.2 million riyals (\$16.6 million) and lending 2.77 billion riyals (\$740 million) makes up only 21 per cent of total end-1987 assets.

Soviet industrial output up

MOSCOW, February 16. (Xinhua): Soviet industrial output rose 4.7 per cent in January over the same period last year, but product quality remains a serious problem, the Soviet daily Trud (Labour) reported today. The fuel and energy industries grew steadily and the output of the machine-building industry also increased. However, according to the paper, targets for many key industries were not met. State quality-control organisations examined the output of 2,200 enterprises in January and found that products valued at 1.3 billion roubles' (about \$2.1 billion) were below standard. This was equal to nine per cent of the total industrial output, the paper said. Last year, Soviet industrial output grew 3.8 per cent, which was below both the 4.4 per cent target and the 4.9 per cent increase recorded in 1986. The state economic plan envisages a 4.5 per cent growth in industrial output for 1988.

Economic growth to slow down

BEIJING, Feb 16. (Xinhua): Researchers in China believe that after the increase in China's economic growth in 1987, the rate of development will slow down. But the speed will pick up again in 1989 or 1990, said Wu Minglu of the National Research Centre for Scientific and Technological Development under the State Science and Technology Commission. He told "China Daily" that the conclusion came from a study of the history of the country's economic development and from figures provided by the State Statistics Bureau. China's economic development has had its ups and downs, and as a rule, the average period between peaks is about 3.6 years, he said. Last year, the country's gross national product reached 1.08 trillion yuan (\$291 billion), an increase of 9.4 per cent over 1986. In 1988, he said, the government is expected to pay more attention to agriculture and exert greater efforts to enrich farmland in winter and spring.

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Dollar and shares firm in quiet trade

LONDON, Feb 16, (AP): The US dollar was mostly firmer in Europe today while the gold price varied.

Foreign exchange dealers said markets were quiet, with some West Germany markets closed because of Carnival festivities.

Dealers said there was no definite trend for the dollar ahead of the publication of the US trade figures.

Last rates for the dollar in Europe compared with Monday's late rates:

- 1,7120 West German marks, up from 1,7085
- 1,4038 Swiss francs, down from 1,4040
- 5,7815 French francs, up from 5,7705
- 1,9200 Dutch guilders, up from 1,9180
- 1,2600 Italian lire, up from 1,257,50

— 1,2687 Canadian dollars, up from 1,2658.

The British pound fell to \$1,7440 from \$1,7455.

Earlier, the dollar closed in Tokyo at 130.50 Japanese yen, down from 131.00 yen late Monday.

In London today, the dollar traded at 130.30 yen.

Hong Kong markets were closed for Chinese New Year.

The key 30-year bond fell 27/32 to 103-31/32. Its yield rose to 8.52 per cent, against Friday's closing at 8.43.

"This is just a carryover from Friday's selling," said one dealer. "The market's down on the realisation that the Federal Reserve is not going to ease, that the economy's stronger than people thought, and that the market went up too fast and now it's time to consolidate."

Gold futures for delivery in April fell one dollar an ounce to \$447.70 cutting into a five-dollar advance made prior to the holiday weekend. Analysts said the selling pressure was not organised, coming mainly from local traders, with dealer buying helping to shore up prices.

US markets were closed on Monday for the President's Day holiday.

Value

Wall Street derived little direction from Europe, where the London stock market was little changed. The FTSE index of the value of 100 blue-chip shares fell 3.2 points to 1,736.0.

"Sometimes I get the impression that fund managers have hidden their telephones in a desk drawer and gone away for a long holiday," a London stockbroker said.

Paris shares were mixed, with the 50-share bourse indicator up 0.89 per cent. In Zurich the All-Share Swiss index rose 5.8 points to 814.6.

In Frankfurt, where the bourse closes early for Carnival, the Boersen-Zeitung 30-share index opened 3.17 points higher at 283.08.

"People are in a Carnival mood and are buying," a dealer said.

Tokyo's 225-share Nikkei index rose 138.19 points, or 0.57 per cent, to 24,345.66. The advance was the market's fourth in a row. The index climbed 225.53 points on Monday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index closed 26.29 points higher at 2,328.04, while Singapore shares also rose. Sydney's All-Ordinaries index gained 5.7 points to 1,215.6.

Tax unthinkable to meet deficit: UAE

ABU DHABI, Feb 16, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said today it might issue government bonds to help shore up its 1988 budget deficit but ruled out income tax as unthinkable.

Finance Ministry Undersecretary Naser Al Nuweis told Reuters the projected budget deficit was somewhat lower than 1987's 2.76 billion dirhams (\$745 million).

"We have presented proposals to the cabinet and the Federal Supreme Council to offset the budget deficit, but they do not include any plans to impose income taxes ... that's unthinkable," he said.

"The proposals take into consideration many possibilities, like raising service fees, issuing bonds and domestic borrowing," Nuweis said.

"The oil price crash in 1986 adversely affected the budget, but now prices have improved

above \$15 a barrel," he said.

"That will automatically raise revenues of the oil emirates and consequently their contributions to the budget."

The UAE's budget is financed by the seven emirates making up the nation, with each contributing half its income. The bulk comes from the two richest, Abu Dhabi and Dubai, whose oil production accounts for more than 97 per cent of the total.

Kuwait has already launched a government bond programme. Saudi Arabia, which last month scrapped plans to tax foreign workers after a storm of protest, is planning to offer up to 30 billion riyals of bonds on the domestic market during 1988 in its first major fund-raising exercise in 25 years.

Meanwhile, the International Petroleum Investment Corporation (Ipic), a wholly-owned undertaking of the government of Abu Dhabi, is seeking joint

investment opportunities with companies in certain industrialised countries aimed at securing markets.

Juan Salem, Ipic president and undersecretary at the Abu Dhabi Finance Department, said it "would be more feasible to become owners of some refining and distribution outlets abroad to complement our petroleum strategy."

Investments

He said that investments in oil-related facilities would help oil producers market their products in industrialised countries and lessen their dependence on contract sales.

Oil-producing Arab states in the Gulf could benefit from Kuwait's successful experience in marketing its crude through its overseas facilities, especially at times of crisis, he added.

He noted that marketing opportunities in developing and Arab countries were limited.

While those in the United States and various West European nations were "still open" and free of "strict and prejudiced restriction."

He said that Ipic recently bought 10 per cent of the shares of the Cepsa oil company of Spain. The final endorsement of the Abu Dhabi and Spanish governments was now being awaited.

According to Salem, the current world financial situation had created "massive" investment opportunities in oil-related projects.

The October crash at the New York stock market resulted in "pulling down" prices thus making investments "more feasible," he added.

Ipic was set up in 1984 by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, the government of the emirate and the Abu Dhabi Investment Company.

Sheikh Ahmed optimistic about Kuwait economy

THE board chairman of the Burjan Bank Sheikh Ahmed Abdala Al Ahmed Al Sabah said yesterday he was optimistic about the country's economic performance in 1988 as the balance of payment is showing a surplus while the state budget appears to be in a good position.

He said government spending during the current fiscal year has gone beyond KD3.15 billion, some 10 per cent increase on the figures of the fiscal 1986-87.

Sheikh Ahmed said the surge in spending was likely to translate into a remarkable economic activity, especially in the trade and construction sectors which he said react swiftly to positive changes.

Gloomy

But the Sheikh's forecasts were more gloomy about world economy as he expected recession to creep in.

On the stock markets crash of last October, Sheikh Ahmed said



Sheikh Ahmed

the repercussions would not be as bad as many had expected because central banks acted

promptly to keep enough liquidity in the international markets.

Asked about the US economy, he said there were indications that the American gross national product would be in the minus in the first quarter of the year. A modest growth would follow before the November presidential elections, the banker predicted.

He said the US administration was unlikely to take any major financial or monetary policy changes in an election year to cut the twin deficit.

Against this background the dollar would possibly come under further pressures, he said.

On the Burjan Bank domestic plan, Sheikh Ahmed spoke about opening new branches and offering new banking services and more active involvement in financing economic ventures.

Re-erecting and training national personnel is one of the

bank's 1988 objectives, he added.

The Burjan Bank, according to its chief executive, emerged almost unscathed from the havoc of the world money equities market as it had constantly reassessed its portfolios and got rid of bonds.

He reaffirmed the basic investment rule that the bigger the profit the less secure the investment is and vice versa.

Khorafi stresses NBK's investment strategy

Riyadh, Feb 16, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia is poised to launch its first major public share flotation in several years in a key test of the economy's ability to generate funds for investment.

In the next few weeks founders of the Taiba Company for Real Estate Development, formed to channel investment into the Islamic holy city of Madina, will ask the Saudi public for an initial 300 million riyals (\$80 million) in return for equity in the company.

But bankers say the flotation comes at a difficult time for an economy only just starting to pull out of recession and could be crowded out by the Saudi government's borrowing plans.

"Only when it makes some clear-cut statements about its intentions, will there be some stability," one banker said.

The Taiba flotation is being handled by the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment which says the offering will begin in the first week of March.

Taiba was formed to help the government control the flow of private development funds into Madina, Islam's second holiest city. In addition to real estate, founders hope to invest in agricultural, commercial, industrial and financial ventures.

Smith Rea Energy Associates Limited of Canterbury, England, acted for Zapata offshore in identifying a joint venture partner in the United Kingdom and assisted in the negotiations with James Fisher and Sons, Bowersox said.

The Zapata off-shore chairman said the first two contracts for the joint venture are expected to involve the semi-subsidiary rig Zapata Uganda, which will work for Phillips Petroleum and the jackup rig Bonanza, which will work for Ranger Oil.

Smith Rea Energy Associates Limited of Canterbury, England, acted for Zapata offshore in identifying a joint venture partner in the United Kingdom and assisted in the negotiations with James Fisher and Sons, Bowersox said.

Historically, no two Saudi companies have gone to the market at the same time and bankers say the Taiba offering is likely to mean another major issue in the works for Al Rajhi Co for Currency Exchange and Commerce — will be delayed.

This year's budget is the most austere since government oil revenues began declining in the early 1980s and for the first time the government is planning to issue medium-term bonds to help finance a projected 35.9 billion riyal (\$9.6 billion) deficit.

"The biggest threat to the flotation is the uncertainty surrounding the bonds," said one financial source.

He said the government's borrowing, its first major fund raising in 25 years, was likely to cool out other investments.

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IN FOCUS
The world today



A CALLIGRAPHER paints new year messages symbolising prosperity and good luck which were on sale to passers-by at a street corner in Hong Kong yesterday. (Rauter wirephoto)



PUBLISHER Robert Maxwell tells reporters that he was prepared to make an acquisition in the US but added that the candidate was not McGraw-Hill Inc. as speculated. Maxwell was speaking at a news conference at the launch of his biography 'Maxwell' written by Joe Haines. (Rauter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Mauno Koivisto, a former dockyard worker who has led Finland into an era of political stability and economic prosperity celebrates his election to a second six-year term with his wife Telliervo on Monday. (Rauter wirephoto)



FORMER soldiers and officials of the South Vietnamese government defeated in 1975 march out of Nam Ha re-education camp near Hanoi last Friday after their release by Vietnam's communist government. Hanoi announced last week it has amnestied 1,014 such re-education camp inmates for today's Lunar New Year celebrations. (Rauter wirephoto)



HUSSEIN DERSIA, 24, a Palestinian refugee in the Tuukarem refugee camp, holds up three broken clubs and a tear gas canister on Monday amid ransacked furniture in his house. Dersia claims the house was ransacked by Israeli soldiers while the Tuukarem refugee camp was under curfew during the last 14 days. The curfew was lifted Sunday afternoon. (Rauter wirephoto)



A SERGEANT of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment gives assistance to his colleague who fell unconscious during the welcoming ceremony of the regiment's return to Hong Kong yesterday after a departure of 145 years. The regiment which had a Chinese dragon on its emblem arrived here on the eve of the Year of the Dragon. (Rauter wirephoto)



SMOKE billows out of the Library of the Soviet Academy of Sciences after a fire erupted in the main academic book depository in Moscow on Sunday. The fire burned most of the night and well into the following day. (Rauter wirephoto)



SANDINISTA leaders bear the coffin of Nora Astorga, Nicaragua's Ambassador to the UN, following a funeral mass in Managua on Monday. Astorga, who was famous for her actions regarding the Nicaraguan Revolution, died of cancer. At left is Bayardo Arce of the Sandinista Directorate and at right is President Daniel Ortega. (Rauter wirephoto)



BRITISH Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe (left) smiles as an aide (centre) gives him a translation of Mikhail Gorbachev's words as the Soviet leader welcomes him for talks in the Great Catherine's Hall of the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. (Rauter wirephoto)



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Presidential candidates (left to right) Gary Hart, Pat Robertson, George Bush and Robert Dole make their last bid for votes in the nation's first primary election in New Hampshire yesterday. Republicans George Bush and Bob Dole said they expected good news yesterday after voters in the campaign season's first presidential primary made their choices. Bush outpolled Dole 11-6 in the midnight balloting, with other Republicans getting a few stray votes. The vice-president threw all the resources he could muster into his bid to arrest Dole's week-long surge that started in Iowa. Former television evangelist Pat Robertson has had to deal with a tempest that arose over his claim that the Soviet Union has offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba. The administration of President Ronald Reagan denied the claim, and later Monday Robertson said he had been asking a question, not making an assertion. Gary Hart, who dropped out of the race for seven months last year, is far back in the race. (Rauter wirephoto)



ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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FARWANIYA, behind Holiday Inn, 1 room for a bachelor to share with a family in a two bedroom flat. Bus routes, 21, 22. Rent KD60 negotiable. Tel. 4743389. (AT4-41008-2)

JABRIYA, studio apartments ready for occupation immediately. Bus routes 19, 18, 37. Rent KD90. Tel. Tony, 5330271. (AT4-41022-3)

SHAMIYA, accommodation available for two spinster/bachelors to share with a Catholic family, with food. Close to main road. KD50. Tel. 2443535/2443553. (AT4-41028-3)

KUWAIT City, behind Sheraton Hotel, Fahad Al Salem Street, one room sharing accommodation available with a Catholic family. Tel. Agnolo, 2414725, after 5pm. (AT4-41015-3)

SALWA, House-156, Block-7 behind Irani shop. One big room with water, electricity and kitchen for a family/bachelors with an Indian family. Rent KD50. Tel. Mohammad, 5611243. (AT4-41038-3)

KUWAIT City, Al Mishan building, ground floor, door No. 4, near Sheraton and very close to Roman Catholic Church, accommodation for bachelors. Contact Al Othman Jewellery Shop, behind GPO. (AT4-41045-3)

FOR RENT

Villas, 1/2 villas, flats, apartments, stores, etc., in all areas of Kuwait.

Messilah Beach Real Estate
Tel. 2401858
2408510

KUWAIT City, Sharq, for one Indian Muslim bachelor, non-smoker, to share with two bachelors. Rent KD35. Tel. 2445561, 6-10 pm. (AT4-41007-3)

KUWAIT City, Qibla near GPO, one room with water and electricity for bachelors only, to share with a family. Tel. 2401610. (AT5-41040-3)

For Rent

MISHRIF, first-floor, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, dining and sitting room, private entrance. Rent KD350. Tel. 5838176, 2-5 pm. (AT4-41009-3)

BAYAN, in an excellent area, 2 independent, fully furnished blocks in a villa, plus mulheq, central AC and tele line. Tel. 9021074, 5615125, 5683456. (AT3-40995-3)

MISHRIF, 2 storey 4 bedroom villa with a beautiful garden and attached extra 3 room quarters, curtains, carpets and irrigation system; for sale. Rent KD 650. Tel. 5832129, 9 am-12 noon & 5-7 pm. (AT5-41047-3)

SHAMIYA, opp. petrol station, 3 bedroom flat with tele. Price for furniture negotiable. Rent KD 150. Tel. Mahesh, 2412598, 5630757. (AT5-Miss-TM-2)

RUMAITHIYA, 2 big bedrooms with balconies and built-in cupboards, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom; on 1st floor of a villa. Rent KD 120 with water and electricity. Tel. Arshad, 5330680, 9 am-9 pm. (AT5-41048-3)

SHAMIYA, opp. petrol station, 3 bedroom flat with tele. Price for furniture negotiable. Rent KD 150. Tel. 5749023 (0) after 2 pm 4833763 (0). (AT5-41025-3)

FOR SALE

Furniture

AMERICAN made 7-seater sofa set with rust coloured velvet type upholstery; KD150, bunkbed made of pine wood, KD25. Tel. M. Islam, 5317598, after 5.30 pm. (AT3-40997-3)

GERMAN double bedroom set, big fridge, dining table, German wall unit, gas cylinders, ironing board etc. Tel. S.R. Ahmad, 3721410, 4-8 pm. (AT5-41033-2)

MAZDA 1980, metallic grey, 5 speed, engine recently overhauled. Insured upto 1988. KD250 cash. Tel. 2415889. (AT5-41043-2)

SUZUKI 4WD Jeep SJ410, Dec. 1984, silver grey, 28000 km, in excellent condition. KD750. Tel. 2641896. (AT4-41010-2)

SAAB 900 turbo, 1982, registered April 1988, white, automatic, KD550 ono. Tel. Mr. Atif, 4883111, 4893311, 8 am-1 pm. (AT4-41017-3)

DODGE Le Baron 1981, AC, automatic registered upto January 1989 in excellent condition. KD650. Tel. Mr Paul, 4833076, 9 am-12 noon, 5720136, after 2 pm. (AT5-41039-3)

Cars

NISSAN Skyline 2.4 GT coupe 1982, one owner from new. Reg upto 30 Nov. 88, regularly serviced. In very good condition. Rent KD120 with water and electricity. Tel. Mr. Edwards, 5749023 (0) after 2 pm 4833763 (0). (AT5-41025-3)

RENT KD260/- including water. Please call: 3721668 from 8 am to 4 pm, and 3918648 from 4 to 8 pm.

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For bachelors or families villas, flats, complete buildings with or without furn. in Fintas, Abu Halifa, Mangaf, Hadiya, and Fahabeel.

Terkoff Real Estate Est.; Tel. 381388, 3919884.

FOR RENT

Mangaf Deluxe Apartments

3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, maid room, 3 bathrooms and fully equipped kitchen (CAC).

You'll enjoy the beautiful garden, swimming pool, exercise room, basketball court, children's amusements, 24 hours maintenance and security.

Rent KD260/- including water.

Please call: 3721668 from 8 am to 4 pm, and 3918648 from 4 to 8 pm.

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2408510

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Tel: 2435782, 2442320/1

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SALWA

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All applicants must have transferable residences and health certificates.
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DODGE Aries 2.2 1981, manual gearbox, insured till 89, used as a second car. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD450 ono. Tel. 372689/90/91 ext. 207. (AT3-41006-3)

G.M.C. "Jimmy" 1979, fully automatic, full-time 4x4. KD700. Tel. Mr. Rudolf Doorn, 2411499, 5752675. (AT6-40948-6)

DODGE Ramcharger, Royal SE 150, 4x4 fully automatic, excellent condition. Reg. upto Nov 88. For details tele. 5635419, 5-8 pm. (AT4-41019-3)

Cressida GL late 82, fully automatic, handled by businessman, must be seen, metallic blue, in excellent condition. KD 1250, ono cash. Tel. 4849178, 7 am - 2 pm. (AT3-41030-3)

HONDA Accord, 1983 model, fully automatic with AC and sunroof. In very good condition. KD1100. Tel. Mohammed, 4895309. (AT5-41032-2)

A DUAL bedroom, wooden bed, wooden cupboards, sofa set, glassable set, gas stove, TV, telephone, also an attractive CAC flat in Abu Halifa. Tel. 3947297. (AT5-41034-2)

MAID required immediately for a family, every Sunday and Thursday, twice a week, 8 am - 2 pm. Tel. 4730957. 4-7 pm. (AT5-41049-2)

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TUTION at your residence for all junior classes including Hindi. Tel. Wilson, 3926492 morning only. (AT4-41016-3)

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MAID. Sri Lankan seeks employment with a kind European family. Needs accommodation for husband. Tel. 5644657, after 2.30 pm. (AT-JW-3)

PETS

CHINESE Pugs, ready for good homes now. KD100. Tel. 3935946, after 2 pm. (AT4-41026-3)

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LOST

PASSPORT No. A 758542, Pakistani, Hameed Mohd Aliyah Bukash. Tel. 5633036, 7 am - 10.30 pm. (AT4-41019-3)

IDENTITY card No. 222808 and Civil Card No. 2510400859 in the name of Mohammad Salim Abdul Gani Shaikh, lost in Darwaza Abdul Razak, Sharq. Tel. 2406354, or contact the Indian Embassy. (AT5-41035-3)

IBM electronic typewriter 75 with memory. Full instruction manual. Excellent condition. Ideal for home or office. KD350. Tel. Edwards, 5749023 (0), after 2 pm 4833763 (0).

WASHER, electric oven, Technics stereo, master bedroom, children's bedroom, carpets, curtains, light fittings, children's slide, wardrobes, wood cabinets and other miscellaneous items. Tel. 5382129, 9 am-12 noon, 5-7 pm. (AT4-41024-3)

MAID, Filipino, required for a British family to live-in. Must have transferable visa, references, speak fluent English and be a good cook. Tel. 3935942. (AT4-41023-2)

MAID, Filipino, required for a British family to live-in. Must have transferable visa, references, speak fluent English and be a good cook. Tel. 3935942. (AT4-41023-2)

NATIONAL microwave, Indesit, dishwasher, sofa 3+1+1, chest of drawers, oil heaters. Also Galant 83, super saloon (Mangaf). Tel. M. Khalil, 3712555, 4-7 pm. (AT5-41032-2)

2 SOFASETS, dining-table with 6 chairs, cupboards, beds, 21/2 ton airconditioners, 2 General, 1 washinghouse with heater (new). Tel. 5635149, (res.). (AT5-41041-2)

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SPORTS**Backgammon tournament**

Joe Daccache with some of the trophies for the 1988 Backgammon Championship

WHAT have the Duke of Wellington, Thomas Jefferson, Mohammed Ali, Jimmy Connors and Sir Winston Churchill got in common? They all love to play backgammon. But unlike the others, Joe has actually done something about helping his favourite game by organising the 1988 Backgammon championship which is sponsored by Parfums Paco Rabanne in collaboration with the Hilton, Gulf Air and Promopuh.

Over 1,000 participants will take part in the Gulf-wide tournament which opens in Kuwait on March 6 and continue till March 8 then moves on to the Hilton in Dubai from 10th to the 12th, to Abu Dhabi from 18th to the 20th and finally to the Bahrain Hilton from 27th to 29th.

The winners of each section will be flown to Bahrain for the grand final on March 30.

Two hundred fifty six competitors will take part in each of the national tournaments. The winner of the Gulf Championship trophy will also get a free return ticket to the Far East, and the runner up will get a return ticket to Nairobi. There will also be trophies and prizes for the winners of each national tournament.

Everyone is eligible to join in the tournament and registration will be on a first come first served basis. Entry forms are available at the Hilton.

The word "backgammon" comes from the Welsh: "bac" means little and "gamen" means war. It is said to originate in Persia and legend has it that Aristotle taught the game to Alexander the Great.

Schoolboy beats world champion

LONDON, Feb 16. (AP): Michael Adams, a 16-year-old British schoolboy chess prodigy, defeated world champion Gary Kasparov by television satellite yesterday.

Adams, who played in London, was one of 10 young opponents in 10 countries and whom the Soviet grandmaster played simultaneously from Cannes in Southern France.

NBA results

NEW YORK, Feb 16. (Reuters): Results of the National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday (only games scheduled)

Bucks	114	Bullets	110
Bulls	126	Hawks	107
Cavaliers	104	Kings	95
Pistons	102	76ers	95
Knicks	97	Nets	86
Warriors	126	Spurs	122
Mavericks	124	Timberwolves	122
Celtics	107	Suns	106
Utah Jazz	112	Trial Blazers	94

SPORTS

1988 Winter Olympics

Medal standings

Nation	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	2	2	5	5
East Germany	2	0	0	2
Sweden	1	0	2	2
Czechoslovakia	0	1	2	2
Netherlands	0	1	1	1
West Germany	0	1	0	1
France	0	0	1	1
Japan	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1

SPORTS BRIEFS

Friendly soccer

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuter): Monaco beat Tottenham 4-0 in a soccer friendly here yesterday.

Scores: Poffana (3rd minute), Mege (42), Hatley (59 and 82).

Israel rejects

TEL AVIV, Feb 16. (Reuter): Israeli tennis officials today rejected India's plea to have their Davis Cup world group relegation tie, scheduled for Tel Aviv in April, switched to London.

India, a strong supporter of the Palestinians, normally shuns sporting links with Israel, and their request to let the match be played at a neutral venue had already been refused by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Forest refuse

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuter): Nottingham Forest have again refused the Welsh Football Association (FA) permission to approach Brian Clough to become manager of Wales.

Forest chairman Maurice Worth said today that the club were sticking by the unanimous decision of the club's board last Thursday.

Walsh joins

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuter): Paul Walsh, who has made just seven appearances as a substitute for English First Division leaders Liverpool this season, joined Tottenham yesterday for a fee of £500,000 (\$875,000).

Injuries and fierce competition for places at Anfield restricted the former England striker to just 77 League games with Liverpool following his £700,000 move from Luton almost four years ago.

Turkish member

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 16. (AP): An International Olympic Committee member from Turkey who is seriously ill with cancer has been flown home in a Canadian military jet, officials said yesterday.

Turgut Atakol, 72, left Calgary early Sunday aboard a Canadian Forces plane authorised by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Atakol was too ill to fly in a commercial jet. IOC and Canadian officials said.

Title fight

TOKYO, Feb 16. (Reuter): Leo Gomez of Venezuela will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum title against Japan's Kenji Yokosawa on April 24, organisers said today. It will be Gomez's first defence of the WBA's lightest weight (47.7 kg) category.

Masters

MELBOURNE, Feb 16. (Reuter): Welsh Dynamo Ian Woosnam, battling with a mystifying loss of form and a back injury as well as a high-class field when the Australian Masters Golf tournament gets under way on Thursday.

Woosnam, who won more than \$1.5 million last year, has been struggling to correct a problem which saw him shoot a horrendous first round 79 in a Hong Kong last week.

First England cap

LONDON, Feb 16. (AP): Chris Oti, the lightning-fast Cambridge University wing, wins his first England cap in the five nations Rugby Union championship match against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 5, the selectors announced today.

Oti is one of three chances in the backs from the sides that lost to France and Wales. There is also one positional switch. Rory Underwood moving to the right wing to accommodate Oti in his favourite position on the left.

Ferguson deal

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 16. (Reuter): Glasgow Rangers manager Graeme Souness took his spending over the past two years to about £6.7 million (£11.72 million) yesterday when he signed Scottish under-21 international Ian Ferguson.

The 20-year-old St Mirren mid-fielder joined the club he has supported since boyhood to end a three-month tug-o-war between his club and Rangers. The St Mirren board had resisted three previous offers for the highly rated Ferguson.

Slowcoach cashes in

CALGARY, Feb 16. (Reuter): Athletes do not get paid for competing in the Olympics, but Raymond Ocampo still managed to cash in on his performance in the men's single luge race.

The Filipino luger collected 25 cent after betting he would not finish last in the four-run event which ended yesterday.

Ocampo took 35th place among the 36 finishers, clocking a tardy three minutes 27.661 seconds.

That was 22 seconds behind East German winner Jens Mueller, but two ahead of the man who took the bet — Alberto Carpenter Altin of the Netherlands Andries.

Puerto Rican George Tucker, at 40 the oldest luger on the circuit, achieved his ambition by beating both of them for 34th spot.

"I'm going to insist I was in on the bet. Tell them I was down for \$100," Tucker said.

Indra, a strong supporter of the Palestinians, normally shuns sporting links with Israel, and their request to let the match be played at a neutral venue had already been refused by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Forest refuse

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuter): Nottingham Forest have again refused the Welsh Football Association (FA) permission to approach Brian Clough to become manager of Wales.

Forest chairman Maurice Worth said today that the club were sticking by the unanimous decision of the club's board last Thursday.

Walsh joins

LONDON, Feb 16. (Reuter): Paul Walsh, who has made just seven appearances as a substitute for English First Division leaders Liverpool this season, joined Tottenham yesterday for a fee of £500,000 (\$875,000).

Injuries and fierce competition for places at Anfield restricted the former England striker to just 77 League games with Liverpool following his £700,000 move from Luton almost four years ago.

Turkish member

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb 16. (AP): An International Olympic Committee member from Turkey who is seriously ill with cancer has been flown home in a Canadian military jet, officials said yesterday.

Turgut Atakol, 72, left Calgary early Sunday aboard a Canadian Forces plane authorised by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Atakol was too ill to fly in a commercial jet. IOC and Canadian officials said.

Title fight

TOKYO, Feb 16. (Reuter): Leo Gomez of Venezuela will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) minimum title against Japan's Kenji Yokosawa on April 24, organisers said today. It will be Gomez's first defence of the WBA's lightest weight (47.7 kg) category.

Masters

MELBOURNE, Feb 16. (Reuter): Welsh Dynamo Ian Woosnam, battling with a mystifying loss of form and a back injury as well as a high-class field when the Australian Masters Golf tournament gets under way on Thursday.

Woosnam, who won more than \$1.5 million last year, has been struggling to correct a problem which saw him shoot a horrendous first round 79 in a Hong Kong last week.

First England cap

LONDON, Feb 16. (AP): Chris Oti, the lightning-fast Cambridge University wing, wins his first England cap in the five nations Rugby Union championship match against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 5, the selectors announced today.

Oti is one of three chances in the backs from the sides that lost to France and Wales. There is also one positional switch. Rory Underwood moving to the right wing to accommodate Oti in his favourite position on the left.

Ferguson deal

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 16. (Reuter): Glasgow Rangers manager Graeme Souness took his spending over the past two years to about £6.7 million (£11.72 million) yesterday when he signed Scottish under-21 international Ian Ferguson.

The 20-year-old St Mirren mid-fielder joined the club he has supported since boyhood to end a three-month tug-o-war between his club and Rangers. The St Mirren board had resisted three previous offers for the highly rated Ferguson.

Repeated

Her match with Henricksson saw repeated service breaks by both competitors, including the first six games. Sabatini had to rally to capture the second set.

Henriksson said: "That's the trait of all good players.

PETER MUELLER'S CHALLENGE FENDED OFF

Zurbriggen grabs gold in downhill skiing

CALGARY, Feb 16. (Reuter): Pirmen Zurbriggen proved himself an Olympic skiing champion of rare class when he answered a tremendous challenge by Peter Mueller with a gold medal triumph in the men's downhill yesterday.

Mueller, who deposed bis Swiss compatriot as world downhill champion last year, destroyed rivals in the elite field with his opening run on the 3,147-metre Mount Allan track.

Zurbriggen, evoking memories of Frenchman Jean-Claude Killy and Austrian Franz Klammer, refused to crack and overhauled Mueller with a charge from the 14th start position which shredded an impressive 0.51 of a second from his rival's pacemaker time.

"I knew at the start that Mueller had a great run. I never saw him ski so well. I was impressed and knew I would have to go beyond my limits to beat him," said Zurbriggen, reigning World Cup overall and downhill champion.

Great run

"I turned, I even touched the snow twice with my hand," Zurbriggen said.

"When I saw my time I just couldn't believe it. I thought I was dreaming and I thanked God for helping me achieve this."

Zurbriggen clocked one min-

ute 59.63 seconds, with Mueller second in 2:00.14 and Picard third in 2:01.24.

Leonard Stock, surprise champion of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic downhill, lost time at the top of the course and could manage only fourth place as the once-mighty Austrians failed to win a men's Olympic downhill medal for the first time since 1968.

Russi must have sympathised with Mueller's predicament, recalling how he had waited at the bottom of the hill in Innsbruck in 1976 as Klammer charged off with the gold and deposed him as Olympic champion.

"It was a wild run in the first turns. I even touched the snow twice with my hand," Zurbriggen said.

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Zurbriggen celebrates his victory. (Reuter wirephoto)

Mueller takes gold in luge singles



Strain shows on the face of Mueller as he prepares to begin his run. (Reuter wirephoto)

The East German student set a course record in his first heat Sunday morning and remained in first place all the way through the four-beat, two-day competition.

Two of Mueller's teammates were narrowly beaten for medals. Thomas Jacob was fourth at 3:06.358 and Michael Walter took fifth at 3:06.933.

Defending gold medallist Paul Hildgartner of Italy was 10th at 3:07.696.

Frook finished 11th with 3:07.735.

Gerhard Sandbichler of Austria, who was 14th after Sunday's two beats, was disqualified for having too much weight on the third run.

"I was so excited last night I got less than six hours sleep," Mueller said after he'd clinched the gold medal in men's singles in his first Olympic appearance.

Hackl, a locksmith from Berchtesgaden, was second entering yesterday's final heats, dropped to fourth place after his morning run and had to rebound in the last beat to earn a medal.

"I hit the wall midway through the first run today and I knew immediately that was the end of any chance for the gold medal," Hackl said. "But I wasn't too disappointed, and I made a strong, fourth run to win a medal."

He emerged as the favourite for the Olympic gold medal by finishing second twice and first twice in his last four training runs last week.

He then broke Frook's course record by nearly a half second

Sabatini outlasts Henricksson



Sabatini: victory

Everybody in the top 10 does

Sabatini, who won two tournaments last year, is seeking a grand slam victory. Her best finish in one of the four majors was a semifinal berth in last year's French Open.

Sabatini also thinks she is narrowing the gap between her and fellow teenage star Steffi Graf. Sabatini is 0-11 in matches against the West German.

"I'm getting closer, but she's still a bit more physical than I am," she said of Graf, who is

bypassing the Oakland event. "I have to improve my serve before I'm able to beat her."

Sabatini won more than \$500,000 last year and has learned to live in the limelight.

Walk down

"I can't walk down the street (in Argentina) without someone recognising me," she said. "I like it. They say nice things; they like me."

Sabatini begins the tournament seeded behind Martina Navratilova, who opened play tonight against Stephanie Reihe.

"It seems I always draw someone in the top 10 in the early rounds," said Keretic following his victory. "Last year, I lost to Yannick Noah, Ivan Lendl, Guy Forget, Boris Becker, Henri Leconte and Emilio Sanchez in the second round of tournaments."

"I have come to expect this kind of draw because of my ranking. I don't even look at the draw sheet any more, I just assume it," said Keretic, ranked 121.

After splitting the first two sets, Keretic jumped off to a 2-0 lead in the third, only to fall behind 3-4 to the determined

Keretic advances to face Edberg

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 16. (Reuter): Damir Keretic, who has gotten used to unlucky draws, defeated American Ritchie Remenig yesterday for the right to face top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the second round of the \$415,000 US indoor tennis tournament.

Keretic managed only one point in the 11th game to fall back to 5-6, but came back strong in the next game, opening with an ace and forcing a tiebreak which he won 7-5.